



This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

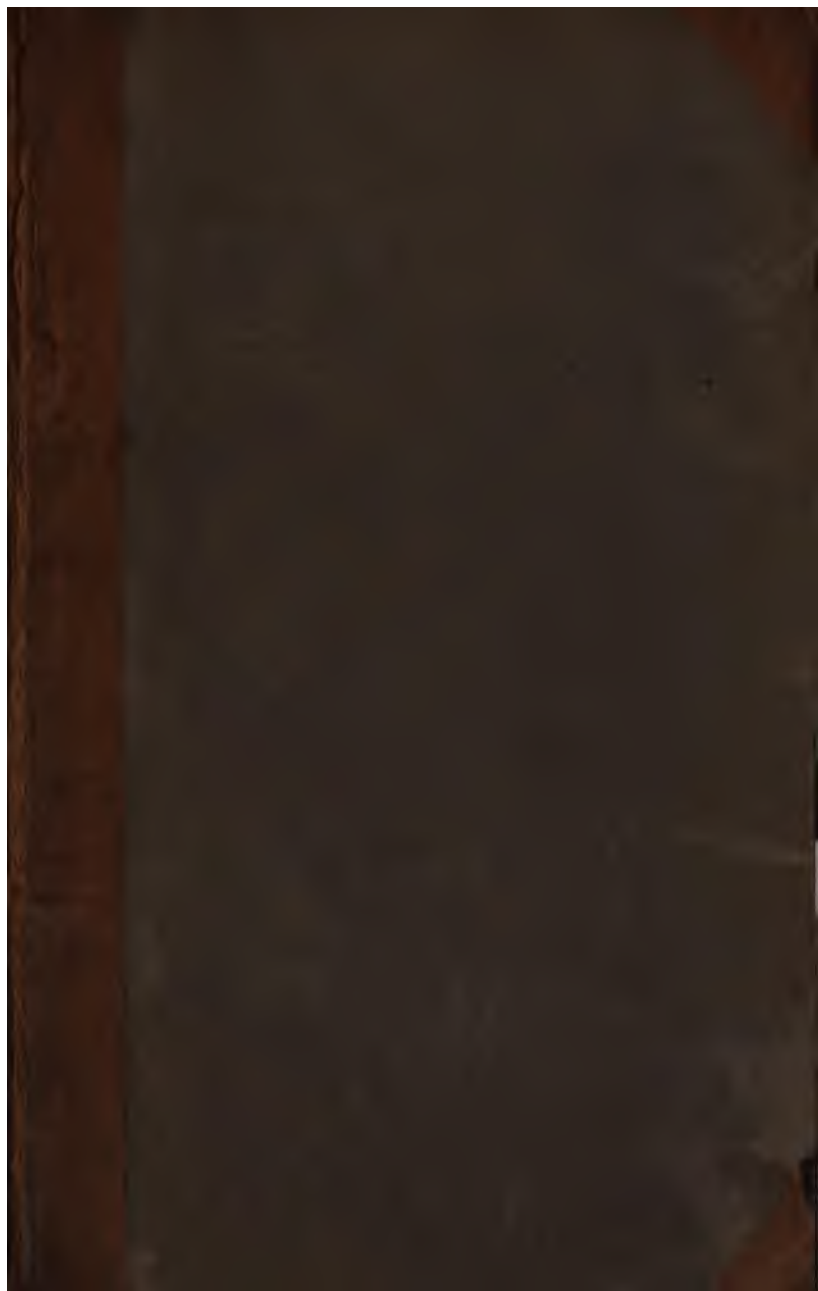
Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

- + *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.
- + *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.
- + *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.
- + *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at <http://books.google.com/>



THIS BOOK BELONGS TO
Rowley's Circulating Library,
EDMONTON.

THE NEW PUBLICATIONS REGULARLY ADDED.

<i>Terms of Subscription.</i>	<i>£. s. d.</i>
early Subscribers at.....	1 1 0
half-yearly ditto	0 12 0
quarterly ditto	0 7 0
monthly ditto	0 3 0

*will be accommodated with all the New Books,
Magazines, Reviews, &c.*

scribers by the Year, £1. 11s. 6d.— Half-yearly ditto, 18s.—
Quarterly ditto 10s. 6d. are entitled to Three Sets of
Books at a time.

The Money to be paid at the time of subscribing.

NON-SUBSCRIBERS

Deposit the Value of the Book (if required) and pay
each Vol. not exceeding the Value of Four Shillings 2d.
ve Four and not exceeding..... Seven Shillings..... 3d.
ve Seven, and not exceeding..... Twelve Shillings.... 4d.

ie Proprietor earnestly requests that New Books will not be
detained more than Three Days.

DRAWINGS LENT TO COPY.

* * *A great Variety of Fashionable Music.*

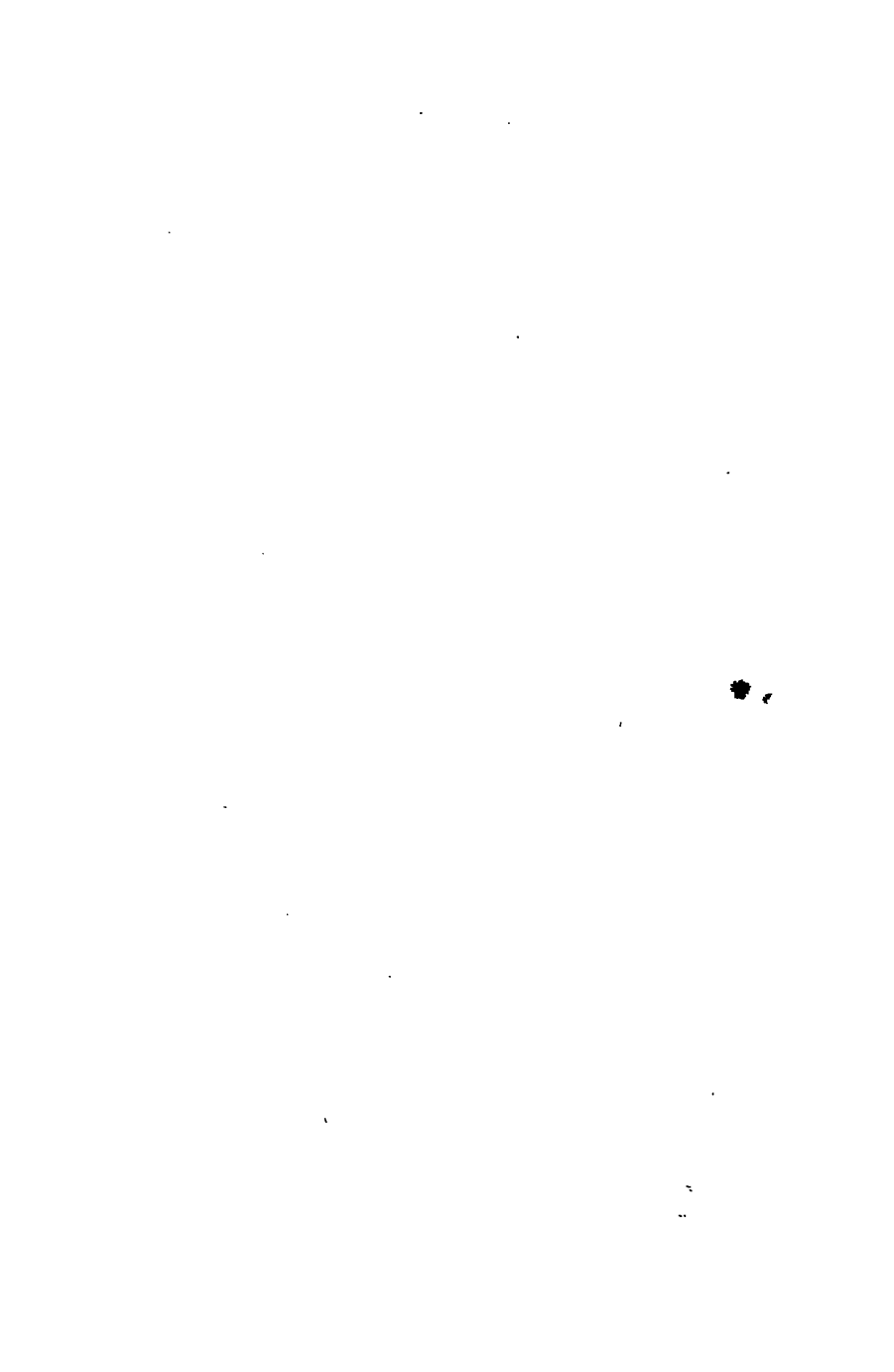
umery, Hardware, Ivory Pin Cushions and Needle Cases, Card
Racks, and Screen Handles, Cotton Boxes, with an
elegant Assortment of Fancy Goods.

Book-binding in all its Branches.

ationery, Account Books ruled to any Pattern.

ring Paper, Bristol-boards, Paste-boards, Coloured and Fancy
Gold Paper, Gold Borders, &

Ladies' and Gentlen
and rep
vines and Periodical



A

BUTLER'S DIARY.

A
BUTLER'S DIARY.

A
BUTLER'S DIARY;
OR,
THE HISTORY
OF
MISS EGGERTON.

A NOVEL.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR WILLIAM LANE,
AT THE
Minerva Press,
LEADENHALL-STREET.

M DCC XCH.



249. S. 213.



A

BUTLER'S DIARY.

‘WHO is he?’ — is the first thought which arises in the mind on seeing a person conspicuous, either in his carriage, his equipage, or his dress. This question satisfied, it is immediately followed by ‘Who

‘ was he?’ — but in justice to the au-

VOL. I.

B

thor

thor of the Diary, it is necessary I should revert the question, and by tracing, first, who Sir Theophilus Clann was, bring my curious readers acquainted with 'Who he is,' begging permission at the same time to say, that I cannot, with any degree of accuracy, trace the family back farther than the parent of the present baronet: for it would be illiberal to adopt stories of slander, and mislead my friends, such as, that Sir Theophilus's grandfather swept the shop of an eminent Tobacconist, and married the maid; how his master did the same—with many *how's* and [*how's*: far be it from me to degrade the virtuous, or lessen the merit of the amiable:

able : Detraction is a heinous sin. The certainty we have is, that Sir Theophilus's father was a merchant of eminence, in the city of London, and lived in the street called Broadstreet, with reputation. Mr. Clann having only this son, and his lady being dead, he was indulged in every whim or caprice he adopted or inherited from his parents : Twice he went to Holland, once to Lisbon, and was actually engaged in a scheme to make the tour of Europe, with gentlemen of birth and fashion, when the unfortunate death of his father protracted his intention. Mr. Clann died in a third fit of apoplexy, leaving a large fortune behind him, with

4. A. BUTLER'S DIARY.

the additional character of having been what the present world calls a good sort of a man, but how to define that modern term, I own I am at a loss. Mr. Clann was a sober man, because he would not be at the expence of wine ; he therefore never indulged in this luxury, but when it fell to the charge of others : he was industrious because he would not borrow ; but he would neither lend, or give away a farthing. He passed unheeded the cries of the wretched and miserable, and recollected not the benediction which was to fall on him that considereth the poor and needy, because there were receptacles provided for all. Thus it is true, in
‘ The

‘The good sort of a man’ we trace no vice, but at the same time we can lay no claim to a share of a moral virtue. Mr. Clann’s greatest merit was in giving his son a liberal education, and the more amiable it is, in that the want of it himself, was the motive which induced him to it : we seldom see a deficiency in any point where we have succeeded. The obscurity of his birth had only rendered his existence a matter of care to those from whom he derived it, and afterwards chance, or charity, taught him his creed, and his letters ; that two and two made four, and three and three six, his natural thrifts soon made him an adept in ; but the principles of arithmetic

metic remained unknown. Addition and multiplication were words he well knew the meaning of, but division, or the practice of it, he never would understand: therefore, when this good sort of a man died, he left all to his son, to whom, in justice we shall add, he made a proper use of the education his father's liberality had bestowed on him, for he did not as is most common, despise the hand that had severed the dross from the pure metal, but at his death lamented him with a decency becoming a son grateful for the benefits he had received from his care, notwithstanding the large and munificent fortune he left him. Mr. Clann's affairs, from the
exten-

extensive way of trade he was engaged in, became complex at his death, and the heir was obliged to continue a resident in the city for some time after the decease of his father, till they were adjusted: during these months, an address of congratulation to the king being presented from that respectable corporation, Mr. Clann still retaining the name of merchant, was the person who on the occasion was offered knighthood, which being accepted, he returned to Broad-street, with this additional honour, added to his other large inheritance: impatient as the heir was to quit a residence so confined for his expanded ideas. Sir Theophilus, (as he now is) was neverthe-

less obliged to endure the mortification for a year, at the expiration of which, all mourning for his father being ended, he found his joys, as his happiness, increased, by the undoubted possession of an hundred and fifty thousand pounds, there needed no more to a man of a liberal education ; he immediately took a superb house in one of the polite squares, had a gay carriage, livery, with rich caparisoned horses, and Sir Theophilus Clam was sought for by the fashionable and gay, as an eligible companion and friend ; being thus situated amidst the nobility of the nation, he began to look at the obscurity of his own origin with disgust, and as there remained no way to wipe off

off the rust of mechanical inheritance, (for money would not do it) but by some good alliance. He, at the age of twenty-five, determined to bury his insignificance in the illustrious titled lady's noble blood, and by marrying with Lady Betty Salton, daughter to the late Earl of Gravline, make up in his succeeding generation for the deficiency, which was more his misfortune than his fault that he inherited. Lady Betty was every way qualified for the undertaking, she not only sprung from ancestors noble by blood and birth, but she equally valued herself on both : to enumerate the valiant and the virtuous in her pedigree, was her greatest boast ; and where they

B 5

fought,

fought, and where they fell, the concluding burden of every tale. Lady Betty was otherwise qualified, for she had not a single shilling of fortune; and Sir Theophilus Clann having an affluence, which goes more towards establishing a family, than any one article besides. Her ladyship readily submitted to a deficiency, where she herself abounded, and her lover finding fortune, and the birth: the match was soon concluded on, and as soon consummated, though to do Lady Betty strict justice, she was a fine woman in person, and excelled, (as she thought) in understanding and prudence, most of her sex. Sir Theophilus Clann was very fond of his
lady,

lady, as likewise very proud of her: he submitted to her decision in every thing, and as a few years brought a large family round them, the sole management was confided to her, and when they could scarce list, the words heroes and battles, the parade of precedence and rank were instilled on their young minds, while the good sort of man lay undisturbed in silent dust, untalked of, unlamented, but not unenjoyed. This rising family, it is necessary we should specify, in order to illustrate our history. Theophilus Clann, Esq. eldest son and heir to the virtues, as well as the estate of this family, was a young gentleman of fine endowments; he had collected all that was

combined in his mother's family for a generation, to embellish a person, which only he took from his father, tall and handsome : he had from the earliest period been at the University, and was now a gentleman commoner of Christ Church college, Oxford, where he usually resided, and his acquaintance much valued and coveted from his polite manners, and universal philanthropy ; the vacations he spent at home, when his mother contemplated with rapture this rising ornament to her family, not that Mr. Clann was her Ladyship's particular favourite, it was pride of birth made her behold her heir thus worthy the honour he would possess : This young gentle-

gentleman was now turned of twenty-four years of age. The next son, George Augustus Frederick Clann, Esq., was named in honour of the prince, Lady Betty deeming a high-sounding name of great utility, as well as recommendation ; this second son was intended for the law, (and indeed by his mother for a future Lord Chancellor) and had been some time entered at the middle temple, where he had chambers, and was in the office of a gentleman eminent at the bar, as a counsellor and orator ; whatever ambition his mother might have respecting him, nature, and his own inclinations, counteracted ; he had no inclination to shine out of his own chambers

chambers of law, and when at home, to have the care of his sisters, and be consulted by them in the etiquette of their dress, was his utmost pride; he consequently was a great favourite with those ladies, and with justice, as he was truly amiable, though he did not inherit so much of the noble blood of the Saltons as his eldest brother. This gentleman only stood one year behind this brother, being twenty three years of age: the third in rotation, but first in every grace of person and mind, came Algernon Clann; at his birth his mother had many doubts respecting his name; at first it was to have been Ferdinand, after Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick, who

who had lately signalized himself by some feat of valour; then it was to have been Alfred, from the first of that name; at last Algernon was fixed on, not from any republican principle, but it was noble, and had a good sound. Under these circumstances this young gentleman was christened Algernon, and is a captain in the army (rising, in the imagination of his mother, towards being a general), and is now with his regiment at a distant part of the kingdom: to do justice to the merits of this noble youth, is a task inadequate to a pen of man. Nature had been liberal to an extreme in the outward ornaments of his person: his mind was stored with every moral good,

good, his understanding clear, judgment solid, blest with a temper the most complete, and a will to please all, and make happy, if in his power, each individual: but I shall say no more at present of this gentleman, as his virtues will all appear in the course of this work, unembellished but by the simple diction of candour and truth: a pen unsullied by the expectation of applause; the silent, deliberate, cool remembrancer only will trace his character: this young gentleman was the darling of his mother, and now just arrived at the age of twenty-two.

We now come to a task which requires the lightest touches of delicate criticism, the female line: Miss Clann

followed the amiable Algernon in the course of four years, being eighteen years old ; this lady was named Eleonora Wilhelmina Eudicia Gray ; this last was added as a family name, (on Lady Betty's side) she having a brother-in-law who married her Ladyship's sister, and who was very rich, with no family of his own. Miss Clamm was not handsome, but elegant ; she had unfortunately too much of the grandfather (the good sort of a man), in her composition, and a certain selfish principle, which suffered not a benevolent wish to extend beyond herself and family, a stain in the internal embellishments of Miss Clamm, which all the blood of the Saltons could

could not eradicate. Miss Clann was the darling of Sir Theophilus, from a similitude of opinion, for though he gave the guidance of his family solely to Lady Betty, that the rust of the Clanns might be totally rubbed off, yet he could not forget he had a father, and a good father too; that when any thing was strikingly conspicuous in his Nell, as he frequently called her, he could not help exclaiming, 'That is so like your grandfather,' while Lady Betty would beg Sir Theophilus not to remind his daughter she ever had a grandfather but the Earl of Gravline; the second daughter, Miss Constantia Louisa Philadelphia Clann, was a thorough romp, she would steal into

Mr.

Mr. Humphry Rule's room, the steward, and discompose all his regularity; she would hide his keys, mix his liquors, burn his bills, and that with so much dexterity, that though she was always suspected, she was never caught. Her brothers did not escape; she would misplace their linen, when the maid would be chid for neglect. Miss Constantia was however upon the reserve before Lady Betty, her mother, of whom she stood in great fear. The young ladies were educated at home, and Miss Constantia was perfect mistress of every female accomplishment, which she attained with the greatest facility, notwithstanding her juvenile temper: she
likewise

likewise excelled her sister in the charms of person, being accounted by the gentlemen to promise to be handsome ; at present she was only fifteen years old : in these, her sallies of humour, she was assisted by her youngest brother, Master Bion, (named after the philosopher of that name) who had just left Eaton, and was preparing for the University, being designed for the church, (and by Lady Betty, to fill a vacant see of Canterbury) but the genius of the young gentleman did not seem to tend to the church militant, he looked to a tattered jacket and trowsers ; and indeed his robust constitution seemed to warrant his election, for his voice was as strong as a boat-

a boatwain's whistle, he swore with a grace, and for courage, he could only be equalled by the royal navy of Great-Britain, the bulwark of the kingdom. Lady Betty soon reconciled herself to his choice, if it was to be so, as an admiral was equally eligible with the lawn sleeves and cowl. In this situation the family were at the commencement of the Diary. Lady Betty had for some years been endeavouring to prevail on Sir Theophilus to make his honours hereditary, and she had now accomplished her wish. Sir Theophilus had obtained a patent, which created him a baronet, and on this new elevated dignity, they left their house in town, and

and retired to Iddlestone-Lodge, in the county of Huntingdonshire, there to enjoy the privacies of retirement, and the comforts arising from parade of rank, and a conscious superiority.

DIARY

I M U S T rise betimes to-morrow morning, said Mr. Humphry Rule, the steward, at five o'clock; every thing must be in order; these new
honours

honours will make Lady Betty more tenacious of the respect which is due to her rank ; the house is well cleaned ; the beds are aired. I wonder if the beautiful Miss Barbara Eggerton will come with them ; but no doubt Sir Theophilus knows how to manage that matter. The young 'Squire, Mr. Clann, will soon be at home : four-score thousand pounds must not be lost, and such a sweet lady too ; yet I believe she loves Captain Clann best ; but Mrs. Bridget will tell us all when she comes, she knows all their secrets.

DIARY.

SATURDAY MORNING.

THEY are here, the coach is driving into the court yard; six horses with four outriders: I must attend, they are getting out: first, Sir Theophilus, my Lady, Miss Clann, Miss Constantia, and as I live, the sweet Miss Eggerton: my old heart dances with rapture and love at sight of that young lady.

lady. Here is a post chaise follows ; Master Bion, and Mrs. Bridget, in the post chaise. I have paid my respects, all well.—How do you do, Mr. Humphry, said Miss Eggerton, I am come to visit the lodge again. I am happy to see you here, Miss : while Miss Constantia, with the voice of Robert the huntsman, tells me I shall soon know *she* is here. My Lady Betty chides her, and Miss Clann, with a severe frown, asks if she will never know her own station, while young Bion seems as if let loose from confinement, and has already had his horse out of the stable, to give him one gallop round the lawn. Oh Mrs. Bridget, my dear Mrs. Bridget ! I am extremely glad to see

you; accept of a kiss from an old man, to welcome you to the Lodge; though it may not have the warmth of love, it has that of sincerity, to enhance its value. Dear Mr. Humphry, you are always so civil; I protest I am glad we are come to the Lodge again; such fuss, Mr. Humphry, with our new honours. I am now only stole down while the family is at dinner. But I see, Mrs. Bridget, you have brought your darling with you, Miss Eggerton. Yes, you may be sure of that, the Baronet would not leave her behind, Mr. Humphry; she has been with us this month past: Sir Theophilus did not like to trust her any longer with Mr. Calcraft; there is a son

son you know : true Bridget, but our young gentleman is expected from college ; Is he not ? Yes, the *vocation* begins soon, and the councillor is expected, and the captain is to have leave of absence from his regiment. — Ah, Mr. Humphry, There is a talk his regiment will be ordered to the East Indies, with the new Governor-General, if so, all my happiness is at an end. I hope not Mrs. Bridget ; it is true, years cool the ardour of hope and expectation. We once——But let us not recall those days ; yet we cannot forget them. I hope the young gentleman will not go, if he does, here is the 'squire, so passionately fond, as he is, of Miss Eggerton, and a very amiable gentleman.

man. I am as much interested in the future happiness of her, as you are, and think it would be a very happy match. Ah ! Mr. Humphry, you do not know all ; my dear lady, her mother, charged me on her death bed never to leave her Barbara till she was married, and that made me accept Lady Betty's place, I assure you, Mr. Humphry ; for I knew Miss Egerton would be more here than at Mr. Calcraft's, for Sir James Egerton, her father, and Sir Theophilus, were particular friends when at college together, and that made them wish for young Mr. Clann to have her ; you know all her fortune is divided between this family, if she marries with-

out

out Sir Theophilus's consent. To be sure Mr. Clann doats on her, as I may say, and a very clever man he is, but what signifies that, Mr. Rule, you don't know all ; to be sure I do not Mrs. Wallace, yet I think Captain Algernon — Aye, there you are right, if you knew as much as I do ; but I assure you, Mr. Humphry, Miss Eggerton will never have the 'squire. Never ! Mrs. Bridget : What, Will she forfeit her whole fortune ? Come, come, you used to tell me all the secrets of the family, who, I am sure, I respect and honour, having lived with them these seven years. Come, why wont Miss Eggerton have 'squire Clann ? Have him, Mr. Humphry ;

why she can't have him if she would. Can't have him, Mrs. Bridget, What do you mean? What do I mean; why I mean she can't have him, because—because—she is married already to Captain Clann. Oh, Mr. Humphry, you have the secret, which I promised never to tell, but I always tell you every thing. Married to captain Clann, Mrs. Bridget! Well, I am glad of it; he, only, deserves that amiable, beautiful creature: I hope it will turn out happy. When was it? About two months ago. They took lodgings, and were out-asked at a city parish. We managed it very cleverly, I assure you, nobody was present but me, and the parson, and

and clerk, who gave her away ; the captain left her in a week afterwards, but she expects every day to here from him: when he will come home ; her letters will come under cover, directed to me, (Mrs. Wallace.) You will take them in Mr. Humphry, and never tell the secret. Never, Mrs. Bridget, I will die first. Ah, if the captain should go abroad, I am sure Miss Eggerton will break her heart. Hush ! my Lady's dressing room bell rings ; dinner is over, and Miss Constantia has got there ; I must see what mischief she's about, and will then meet you, Mr. Humphry, at dinner : Miss Eggerton married to captain Clann ; it is what I wished : yet my

mind misgives me, but I will not anticipate misfortunes: Sir Theophilus will be disappointed, and so will the young gentleman I am sure—Dinner.

DIARY,

THURSDAY.

Miss Constantia came running into my room; the post, Mr. Humphry, a letter for my papa, from my brother
at

at Oxford; we shall have him here soon I hope: for then we shall have the ball at Beacon, you know: his constituents, Mr. Humphry, will expect a ball for the ladies; I am to be there, mama says. Here is a letter for Mrs. Wallace; it is for all the world like my brother Algernon's writing. I will carry it to her, shall I? By your leave, Miss, I will give it to her myself. Well, I will give my papa his, then, and tell Bridget there is one for her. Away she went, Mrs. Bridget soon came: Mr. Humphry, Miss Constan-
tia says you have a letter; how came she to see it? (exactly like her brother Algernon's writing she says.) I was in the dressing room with my lady and

Miss Clann, with Miss Eggerton, when she said so. How did the lovely countenance of Miss Eggerton flush, when she heard it; her heart palpitated with joy; give me the letter Mr. Humphry, she is waiting now in her own room, with the utmost impatience. Yes, it is his hand writing, plain enough, as Miss Constantia says: yet he has tried to disguise it as much as he could.

TO

MRS. CLANN,

(Under cover, directed to Mrs. Wallace,)

AT IDDESTONE LODGE,

HUNTINGDONSHIRE.

North-

Northallerton, Yorkshire.

My dearest Barbara,

HOW heavy the tardy minutes fly: when will they bring me to my love. I shall leave this place on Wednesday, on my journey to the Lodge, which I shall reach on Sunday or Monday next: prepare yourself to meet your husband, your fond, your affectionate husband. I anticipate the moment I shall clasp my Barbara to the bosom of her for ever faithful

ALGERNON CLANN.

C 6

O my

O my dear Mrs. Wallace, let me lean on your breast that has so often supported me : let me give vent to my tears and my joy. Mr. Clann, my Mr. Clann, will be here on Monday : how shall I meet him : you only know how I shall, how I ought to meet him my soul doats on : you only were privy to a transaction which makes me glory in calling him my husband : support me at the time, or extricate me, I have never seen him since in this company. For the love you bear the memory of my dear deceased parents, forsake not at a moment so critical, the child you nursed, and promised her you never would discard. Well my dear Constan-
tia, what is the matter ? O, I am out of
breath

breath, my brother is just arrived from College, this moment come. Won't you come down and see him ; I am sure he wants more to see you than any of us all, though he does not say so, but he looked round the room as if one was missing : Wont you come ? What's the matter ? You look Barbara as if you had been crying : My brother will kiss away your tears ; he looks so handsome : Won't you come ? Go my dear Constantia, and I will follow you. Is she gone Bridget ? Yes Ma'am. But why do you flurry yourself so much, you know the 'Squire cannot have you now, nor can all the world give him to you. Well, I think Bridget

get I will go down; I must meet him; and then the painful task will be over.

DIARY

CONTINUED.

WELL, said I, to Mrs. Bridget, I never saw a gentleman so very attentive and fond as Mr. Clann is of Miss Eggerton: yet was I in pain for her all dinner time, while Sir Theophilus was continually calling to her by the tender name of 'My Bab,' Why do you
look

look so sad? You don't eat my child; But I knew the cause; what would I have given that I might have told: the councillor will be here to-morrow, and Miss Clann says they shall then know all the secrets of state, and the scandal of court. The 'squire rebuked his sister for expressing a pleasure in hearing defamation, and that she should in future check a propensity which led to vice, especially, my dear Eleanora, as we are all prone to errors.

Remember yourself, and then you will forget the faults of others, or take example by them; but Miss Constantia declared positively, there was nothing,

nothing so entertaining as scandal, and that she thought very different from her brother ; for we always see those faults in others, which she was determined she never would see in herself.

Here a rebuke from Lady Betty silenced her, by observing to Miss Constantia, she should attend, and observe her brother's advice, so much for her good, and not yet suffer herself to be heard ; on which Master Bion laughed, and casting a sly leer, and saying, Ah, Constantia ! brought her into a pout, and she was silent all the rest of dinner time. I was glad of it for the trick she played me this morning, in hiding the key of the wine vault, for
which

which I searched two hours, and at last found it tied to the tail of old Chloe, the dog, who is grown aged, and sleeps from morning till night.

I should not have found it then, had not a stranger come into the room, on which she roused herself to bark at him, and there trailed the key after her.

It is impossible Mr. Humphry to help laughing at her ; she is a strange young lady, but she will make a better woman than Miss Clann, for all that, with her half pride of family, and all the Clann of composition in her. But Miss Eggerton, how sweet, how innocent,

nocent, how lovely did she look, so consciously pleased at the check Mr. Clamm gave his sister, so satisfied in the justness of his opinion; but she, Mrs. Bridget, is as perfect in the beauty of her mind, as in the perfections of her person; and so Sir Theophilus says: What signifies the four score thousand pounds Lady Betty, with such a sweet creature. Lady Betty says, true, Sir Theophilus, (for Lady Betty had no fortune herself) but she looks at the four score thousand pounds, and hopes to see it in the possession of her eldest son.

DIARY,

DIARY,

SATURDAY.

THE counsellor is come in a post chaise and four, with all the appearance of state and gravity attendant on a Doctor of Laws. The young ladies ran out to meet him; rejoiced at the sight of their favourite. Miss Eggerton ran too, as she fears no lover in him. Miss Constantia flung her arms round his neck

neck the moment he alighted from the carriage, and kissed him so loud, we could hear her : he kissed the hand of the blushing Miss Eggerton, who artlessly welcomed him to the lodge ; but to-morrow, or Monday, will be her trial, when she is to meet the captain ; if he should come while we are at church to-morrow Bridget, said she, don't you let him come, how impatient soever he may be to see me.

The counsellor was very consequential at dinner, and Lady Betty was very attentive to all he answered Sir Theophilus, respecting the business of the last term, and the situation of the several courts of law ; on the conclusion

sion she enquired how the lord chancellor was in health, but as the counsellor did not himself care, so he likewise did not know how satisfactorily to answer the question, on which Master Bion observed, on his hesitation, he only acted in his profession, for to quibble and demur, were characteristics of Law : this occasioned a laugh, and the baronet told him, if he did not behave better, and with more respect to his elder brother, he would send him to sea, on which the young gentleman replied, he might send him where he pleased, so he did not confine him to thump a cushion to a sleepy congregation, which he was sure

sure it would be, that attended to hear him.

Well then, you shall go to sea, Bion, said Sir Theophilus ; and said Lady Betty, I may live to see you an admiral Bion. He must be very circumspect in his behaviour then, said the 'squire. Yes, said the counsellor, or I should as soon expect a repeal of the corporation and test acts, as his promotion.

This recovered Miss Constantia from her stupor, and with a pretty smile, told Bion to keep his eye on the broad pennant flying at the top-mast, and not on her ; and by my faith, said Bion, so I will, but I shall ask my father

ther only permission to look sometimes at a pretty girl, and I am sure Miss Eggerton ~~will indulge me~~ with a look at her, and then I need stray no farther.

Miss Eggerton bowed with a blush to him, and said she was happy at all times to be instrumental in promoting his happiness. Sir Theophilus thanked her, observing it was in her power to promote all their pleasures : the lovely wife too well knew his meaning, and Mr. Clann corroborated the assertion by a profound bow.

DIARY.

DIARY,

SUNDAY MORNING.

THEY are gone to church, the ladies in the coach, the gentlemen walk. Doctor Compton dines here to day, Mr. Humphry, does he not (says Bridget)? Yes, and young Mr. Compton, his nephew, and Mr. Summerfield, the curate. Mr. Compton has a secret sigh for Miss Eggerton, I think he is a very deserving young gentle-

gentleman, and will have all his uncle's fortune : I wish the captain may not come to day, on the account of so much company. How long do they intend to keep the marriage secret, Bridget ? Why till my young lady is of age, which wants two years ; she will be nineteen the 4th of next month ; and they have had the advice of some learned man in the law, who says, when she is of age, they may set aside the clause forbidding her marrying without her guardian's consent, after that time ; if so, then they will own their marriage, and take possession of her fortune. Sir Theophilus and Mr. Calcraft allow her now three hundred a year for her wardrobe and pocket ; but Mr. Humphry,

Miss Eggerton will always be poor; her compassionating heart will ever make her feel, and relieve the wants of others.

Mrs. Mildmay and her family, who once knew better days, she entirely supports. Lend me a guinea, Bridget, said she to me on Tuesday: A guinea ma'am! Yes; I will give it you when my quarter is due, which will be soon: Here take it to Mrs. Mildmay, one of the children is ill, and may want necessaries. The next day she broke, or Miss Constantia broke for her, that beautiful chain to her watch. Now Miss, said I, what will you do, and next week is the ball, you keep yourself,

self so poor? Do, Bridget, she replied, why do without it. Ornaments we can dispense with, but the necessities of nature the most impoverished must supply; my dear mama always said so, and if I want more money, I will borrow of you again.

The watch and the chain Mr. Humphry, are thrown aside as useless, only when she attempts to count over the heavy hours which must elapse before she sees him: for whom alone she wishes ever to value time, except indeed, when employing it to the service or relief of those for whose assistance she thinks she was sent into the world. How different, Mr. Hum-

phry, are the dispositions of people ;
but I must leave you, and settle her
apartment, lest the husband should
come to day.

DIARY,

SUNDAY NIGHT.

It is late, and we have no expected
visitor ; Dr. Compton asked lady Betty
at dinner, when she hoped to see the
captain,

captain, every day doctor, every hour, said Lady Betty, on which the doctor, having a glass of wine in his hand, drank to his safe arrival, and the toast went round. Mr. Clann urging Miss Eggerton to drink the safe arrival of his brother with him ; she consented on Sir Theophilus pressing her compliance.

The glass scarcely reached her lips from the trepidation of her spirits; the agitation was visible, though the imputed cause very different. The 'squire exulted in an embarrassinent he thought originated in himself, and vainly imagined he was beloved by the woman, he thought the greatest orna-

ment of his life ; he had sensibility enough to adore, while the tender sympathy of her heart sighed for the sight of that man, who only was intitled to her solicitude, and who lived in her smiles alone. We shall have the captain here to-morrow Mrs. Bridget ; most certainly Mr. Humphry.

DIARY,

DIARY,

MONDAY NOON.

Mrs. BRIDGET, the Captain is come, he this moment rode into the outer court. Where Mr. Humphry, where. I will run and tell my young lady; she is in her own apartment alone. Oh, Miss, don't be surpris'd, ma'am, don't hurry yourself; What is the matter Bridget? It is you that hurry me. O

D 4

ma'am,

ma'am, indeed, and indeed, as I am alive, Captain Clann has just rode into the outer court. You may believe me.

Mr. Humphry saw him ; indeed your husband. Hush ! Hush ! Ah, that sacred word, Bridget, said the beauteous wife, and clasping her hands, exclaimed, that at that moment her sight was a blessing indeed : But where shall I meet him, Bridget ? Where are the family ? In the breakfast parlour ; they are not yet retired to dress. I will join them and meet him in the group of expectant and welcome receivers.

Miss Eggerton hurried down just in time before Master Bion brought the
news

news to Lady Betty, his mother. The herald was soon followed by the hero. Captain Clann entered the breakfast parlour: a respectful duty was first paid to a mother he honoured, as she deserved, with his particular respect. Mr. Clann presently entered, and welcomed his brother with affectionate regard, while the known and unknown object of all his attention stood unheeded, but not unthought on, till Miss Constantia (for once fortunate in her precipitancy) no longer able to contain her congratulation, pressed forward to welcome his return to the lodge: she threw her arms round his neck; he kissed his sisters.

Miss Eggerton could not remain any longer unnoticed, singly so he clasped his Barbara to his heaving bosom, and received from her blushing, her lovely, silent, trembling agitation, that welcome return he could only receive from her, or she bestow. At this moment the event had reached Sir Theophilus in his library, who entered, and fortunately interrupted a scene, which might otherwise have produced effects, which were too reciprocal and sincere to admit of dissimulation or disguise, and would have been too conspicuous to the eyes of Mr. Clann, whose soul only breathed a respiration favourable to life, in the presence of Miss Eggerton.

The

The joy of Lady Betty on sight of such a son, could not refrain itself from appearing by tears. Sir Theophilus was glad to see him, and indeed, if figure could enhance the value of the man so truly amiable as Captain Clann, nothing was wanting at this moment to embellish his, heightened with the self satisfaction of seeing that object which shone in the person of Miss Eggerton, beyond all the power of description to do justice to. She was in her figure tall, and elegantly made ; fair complexion, large blue eyes, flaxen hair. What was wanting at that moment to form perfection ? What was wanting ! Why nothing : for the man was present for

D 6 whom

whom she decorated, and who enhanced the value, as he animated every feature by his appearance, nor could a painter, the greatest artist, had he been present, done more than justice to two such portraits, even had he excelled himself in the powers of his art, but the minds of both were beyond the reach of description: these we must leave to the satisfactory hours of privacy and retirement.

After an hour's conversation, the ladies retired to dress, and Miss Egerton taking possession of her apartments, which was always assigned as her own, gave an ease to her joy, by the same voluntary torrent which expresses

presses the most poignant grief. These tears were soon exhausted, and on the dinner bell ringing, appeared with the family at the table: the councillor met his brother after a morning ride, where he had been exercising his dog and gun: the tears which had fell from the beauteous eyes of Miss Eggerton, were not unobserved by the attentive husband; he traced the marks they had left behind; he knew the cause, and gloried in the occasion.

The afternoon and evening were past in true domestic conviviality and cheerfulness: Miss Constantia, who was perfect mistress of music, played and sung. Miss Eggerton did both; she

she played alternately on the lute, the guittar, the harpsichord, while the enraptured Mr. Clann contemplated with transport those perfections he thought in two years to call his own.

At length the hour of retirement arrived, and Captain Clann longed with impatience for that privacy when he could again repeat those vows to his Barbara, which had ever dwelt on his mind since their last cruel parting.

He had previously settled with Mrs. Bridget that he would take the key of his own room in his pocket, and conceal himself in a closet in Miss Egerton's, till she left the company; in
confe-

consequence he pleaded fatigue, and retired early to his place of concealment. The family were domestic, and went soon to rest, the lovely Bride fled to the now happy apartment, as it contained all she held dear on earth : the door was no sooner fastened, than he hastened from his concealment, and folded his lovely partner to his faithful heart, unwitnessed but by the tender emotions of their mutual love.

Vain the attempt to endeavour to paint the tender scenes : they seated themselves, and were beginning to enumerate the painful, as pleasing sensations they had alternately endured in this long absence, and enquiring
after

after his brother's rising hopes, which he had frustrated, when a hard rap at the door made him fly again to his place of concealment. On Miss Egerton, (or we should now say, Mrs. Clann), asking who was there : Miss Constantia begged her, impatiently, to open the door ; on which request, Mrs. Clann, (for the first time in her life,) peevishly asked, For what ? Why open it, said the impertinent, and I will tell you.

She had no alternative, when in came the romp, begging to remain there a quarter of an hour ; for I have played Bion such a trick, that I hear he is vowing revenge already. What have
you

you done, said Mrs. Clann (though not very desirous to hear) ? I will tell you Bab, if you will finile on me : I never saw you look so crofs : you don't use to look so four. Well, What is it, Mrs. Clann returned ? Why I turned up the top sheet of his bed, and taking the under sheet thus, (wringing her pocket handkerchief she had in her hand), I dipped it half way into a basin of water, and wringing it as dry as I could, made the bed again, as if nothing had happened. He went to bed, but it was impossible, you know, for him to lay, and he is now putting on his cloaths again, swearing to be revenged on me. I have

have ordered Hannah, the maid, to get him a clean sheet.

Miss Constantia had scarcely finished her story, uninteresting and impertinent as it now was, when a second rapping, and the voice of Bion calling loud for admittance, to find his sister, made Constantia fly towards the closet, where the disguised husband lay concealed, to hide herself. Mrs. Clann had just time to prevent her, and forcing her into another, which she declared more private, opened the door to Master Bion : when on not seeing his sister, he was for searching the closets ; but to prevent that evil, Mrs. Clann forced the culprit from
from

from her hiding place ; who, exceeding angry at her for it, said, she supposed some lover was hid in the other closet, or she would have let her in there, or at least, suffered Bion to search for her. Bion said, he had a good mind to look ; but on her telling them her head ached, from the exertion of singing and playing so much in the day, and begging them to settle their quarrel in some other place, they retired, not without a strong suspicion there was a favoured lover in the closet, notwithstanding the head-ach, for Bion observed, the head ach was often pleaded by ladies, to cover an intrigue.

Pea ce

Peace and privacy being restored, the Captain again ventured out of his cell, and the remainder of the night passed in quiet, 'till fix in the morning, when the Captain took possession of his own bed, 'till eight or nine, and then met his lovely wife, at the breakfast table, with the rest of the family. They had not been long seated, when Mrs. Clann, with much affability, asked Bion, and Miss Constantia, what occasioned their making such a riot, after the family had retired. The Counsellor, with a forced gravity, rebuked his sister for her ill-timed frolics, and the Captain chid her, with a smile, for disturbing a weary traveller:

This

This compelled Bion to exculpate himself, and he told the whole story, without any reserve, not omitting his sister Constantia taking refuge in Miss Eggerton's chamber, and the suspicions rising in both their breasts, respecting a concealed lover in the forbidden closet. Sir Theophilus looked at Mr. Clann, as not doubting he was the happy fugitive, while the delicate sensibility of that young gentleman, lest Miss Eggerton's delicacy should be wounded by the suggestion, kept him silent, and he did not look at her, for a confutation, which her looks would have given, to a surmise, that would have sensibly pained her, had not the man of men been present,

sent, who could warrant the ambiguity of the aspersiōn.

After breakfast, they all retired to the several amusements most suitable to their dispositions. Sir Theophilus retired, as usual, to his library, and his books : Mr. Clann, and the Counselor, forced the Captain to ride with them, while his heart, and his soul, was in the apartment of Miss Eggerton. Lady Betty retired to her dressing-room, the young ladies with her, and Miss Eggerton, all being a void in the absence of him who only enlivened her scenes, attended the harpsichord, with them, to pass the heavy

heavy hours, (though so few) of his absence.

Mrs. Bridget took this opportunity to visit Mr. Humphry : all passed very well, Mr. Humphry, last night : I ~~don't~~ know what I should do, could I not unbofom myself to you. Mrs. Bridget, I am so happy to see Captain Clann here : the ball is to be on Thursday, at Beacon, I find : How shall we get over that ? O never fear, my young lady will manage it herself, being so well protected.

On retiring at night, Mr. Clann threw out a hint to Bion, and Miss Constantia, to be more inclined to peace ;

peace ; Sir Theophilus assuring Bion, if he was not, he would soon ship him : and lady Betty rebuked her daughter, with the stale observation, that ‘ She was old enough to know better.’ Miss Clann was too much engaged in conversation with the Counsellor, to attend to the admonition, as they were settling the etiquette of the approaching ball, and in her mind, was endeavouring to ornament that person, which a certain young gentleman had whispered to her, was already too attractive, and in which, the advice, which had been applied with good intention, by lady Betty, to her youngest daughter, on a more trivial occasion, would have been, (or ought to

to have been) attended to by the eldest; 'She was old enough to know better.'

Amidst these different injunctions, Captain Clann ventured to say (or to advise) Miss Egerton, if they again claimed her protection, not to let them in, to disturb her. Sir Theophilus, and Lady Betty, seconded the request, which, to oblige them, Miss Egerton promised she would not. The 'Squire too, joined his prohibition, on which, Bion, with a hum, and shrugging up his shoulders, said, perhaps his brother spoke from interested motives. Sir Theophilus, on this, ordered him to bed first, as a prelude to

the peace he intended to have preserved, when they all retired to their several apartments, but Mr. Clann, not to that concealed corner, which was occupied by a happier, but in Miss Eggerton's estimation, a more deserving man.

Mr. Humphry, (said Mrs. Bridget to me) you have sent the tickets round to the company, who are invited to the ball on Thursday, by Mr. Clann, at Beacon: above a hundred and fifty people are to be there, and Miss Constantia already begins to enumerate who will be *Bores*; but her whole delight is in dancing: my young lady intends to dance with Master Bion: the

the 'Squire has apologized to her for not giving her the preference, but he will be so situated, as to be obliged to dance with many, not to give offence now, especially, as Sir Theophilus says, at the eve of a general election. Why don't she dance with the Captain, Mrs. Bridget? Mr. Humphry! What dance with her husband! What an old fashion man you are.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT.

HAD a tea visit from Doctor Compton, Mr. Compton, and Mr. Summerfield. Mr. Compton asked Miss Eggerton the favour of her hand the ensuing evening, but she was engaged to Master Bion: this the 'Squire hopes is a compliment to him. Bion comforts himself in the idea, he shall be envied by all the gentlemen present, and declares he will not resign her for
one

one dance. Mr. Clann wishes him to keep his word, while the fair contested prize had already enjoined him (previous to her promise of dancing with him), that he should not.

Happy as Captain Clann is, yet there is a check to his joy: for no happiness is perfect which forbids participation, and he dares not tell Miss Eggerton is his wife; yet, in that declaration, should he count the greatest honour, the glory of his life.

DIARY.THURSDAY MORNING.

Miss Constantia is so busy in preparing for the ball in the evening, that she thinks of nothing else. The gentlemen are gone out riding. Mrs. Bridget says she is every minute, running in and out of Miss Eggerton's room, consulting her in every article of her dress. Miss Clann above it, as thinking her own judgment sufficient.

How

How will Miss Eggerton be dressed, Bridget? Quite a bride, Mr. Humphry, all in virgin white, and very indifferent about it. 'I have no care about my dress, Bridget: I have that about me, which is the pride and glory of my life;' when taking a miniature picture of the Captain from her bosom, so exactly like him, Mr. Humphry, and smothering it with her innocent kisses, lessens her present happiness, by drowning it at the same time with her tears, in the apprehension of being parted from the original: But he will not hear her say a word about his going to the East Indies, which makes me think he expects to go. .

Is the watch chain mended, Mrs. Bridget? No: But I carried another guinea to Mrs. Mildmay, this morning, on the child continuing ill. How is the child, Bridget, said she, on my return? Very bad, ma'am: Mrs. Mildmay returns you a thousand thanks. Thanks! said the lovely creature; What a retribution, to soften the calamities of nature: Does she not suffer enough, Mrs. Bridget, unheeded by relations, unsupported by those who look for the ostentatious display of their pecuniary gifts? I wish I could do more for so much merit, and so much suffering. But I must away, Mr. Humphry, my lady Betty will dress first, and then I shall attend

Miss

Miss Eggerton. Hannah is solely employed in attending her ladies ; they are not yet determined what to wear.

Six o'Clock.

THEY are all dressed, and in the drawing room, waiting for tea : I will attend them at the tea-table. Humphry, said Sir Theophilus, you will send the coach, and the chariot, at

E 5 two

two in the morning, with flambeaus, and let Robert and Frank come with it : mind, with the blunderbuffes, for we may meet with robbers. (Lady Betty had all her jewels on, which are considerable; they were her mother's, the countess of Gravline.)

The young ladies look very well ; Miss Constantia, handsome : she trod on my toe, (though she knows I am troubled with the gout) on purpose, and then asked my pardon, with a ' dear Mr. Humphry, I ask ten thousand pardons, I hope I have not hurt you ;' but nothing could equal the innocence, simplicity, and beauty, of Miss Eggerton ; all white : a bride indeed ;

indeed; the Captain in his regimentals, scarlet and gold: How the eyes of Mr. Clann followed her, when she went to the coach, led by Master Bion.

Lady Betty looks very graceful and well; she looks the woman of quality: after all, Bridget, there is a something in well-bred people of fashion, that will shew itself different from your upstart gentry. I think Miss Constantia has more of that grace of deportment of her mother than Miss Clann, but Miss Eggerton shews the true gentlewoman born. Yes, Mr. Humphry, and how handsome the Captain looked; he has his mother's birth too. Will you have an-

E 6 other

other dish of coffee, Mrs. Wallace?
No, Mr. Rule; I shall see you at
supper, for I suppose you will sit up
till they come home, which will be
late, notwithstanding the Baronet has
ordered the carriages at two o'clock.
Yes, to be sure, I will sup with you
Mr. Humphry.

DIARY.

DIARY.

FRIDAY MORNING.

I ATTENDED at the breakfast table, where the family met at twelve o'clock, tired to death almost, and asleep, for notwithstanding the carriages were there at the time appointed, they did not come home till five o'clock.

* An

‘An account of the ball.’—Miss Clann, who always sits at breakfast on the right hand of Sir Theophilus, leaning on the arm of his chair, began, by saying : Lady Jeune will never be old ; she is an ever-green, says Miss Constantia ; a green-house plant, always in bloom, with her pink, in imitation of ~~roses~~ : ~~that~~ is Sir Jacob Jeune’s fault, said Miss Clann, he will have her always appear young, stuck out as he was in his buckram’d suit ; then the daughters bordering on thirty.——

You, mama, frequently used to say, that seven or eight years ago, they used to be calling out continually

tinually to Lady Jeune, mother, or speaking of her, my mother, to check her levity, while in youth themselves ; but now they are content to let her appear young, to screen the advance they are making in years ; and they lisp out, mama, and my mama, so soft, and so pretty. Mr. Clann could not help smiling, but unwilling to prevent their criticism, kept silent.

Then, said Miss Constantia, there is Mrs. Pollecat, lately from the East Indies, trailing her gold muslin ; and Mr. Pollecat, who is known to be the son of a hair-dresser, for his father used to dress the hair of my grand-mama,

mama, the countess of Gravline, Mama says, there was he, starting his opinion on the utility of keeping good company, while Miss Pollecat, who danced with Sir Simon Snuff, declared, in my hearing, she never was so hot in her life, and was obliged to shake her petticoats; 'Lord, how hot I am——Phogh.'

Sir Theophilus here thought proper to put in a word, in favour of industry, observing, what Mr. Pollecat's father was, it was not material, if he got his fortune by industry, and with a fair character. Lady Betty said, true, but they should not attempt to intrude themselves on people, who are
of

of birth, and superior fortune. Sir Theophilus answered, it would be in Mr. Pollecat's power to be of singular service to her son, should any contest arise, and he had promised him his favors; on which Lady Betty observed, there were circumstances which made those punctilios of family of small avail.

But how did you like Mrs. Crush, just out of her weeds, so prim, yet backbiting all her neighbours and friends? Poor Mr. Crush used to say, and she put her handkerchief to her eyes, nobody deserved pity, who did not thrive in the world; the same path was open to all; if they swerve, what was it to any body but themselves.

Come

Come hither, Catherine (to her youngest daughter), hold up your head, she is so like her dear papa : Is she not, Lord Bodkin, and exactly like him in temper ? On which, Lord Bodkin sarcastically asked her, immediately, How Mrs. Candid, her sister, did ? Heaven knows, my Lord : the death of poor Mr. Crush, has hindered me from enquiring. The last I heard was, that she was in great distress, and had a sick family : but I have a large family of my own, left in charge.

Here she went to the whist table, and lost more than would have maintained Mrs. Candid for a month. The two Miss Catlove's, with their independent twenty thousand pounds, dressed
so

so fine. George Augustus, said Miss Clann, I think Lucy Catlove would do for you; you would have 20,000*l.* and a fool, what could you wish for more? Mr. Clann now thought proper to stop the thread of female scandal, by enquiring, What they had to say, in behalf of the gentlemen? How did you like Sir James Firelock, Nelly? on which Miss Constantia exclaimed, a perfect doll, jointed with wires; I never touched hands with him, during the evening, lest I should soil his gloves; or dared to breathe, when I faced him, fearing to tarnish the tinsel on his cloaths.

Well then, said Sir Theophilus, Sir John Sweep: Oh! the creature! exclaimed

claimed Miss Clann, I believe he thought himself on horseback the whole evening : I several times expected him to leap over my head. Well, But how did you come off with the good natured Mr. Churl ? The monster ! said Constantia, he came to me, well Miss, so you are come to shew yourself. I think your father and mother would have done well, had they left you at home, in the nursery, diverting yourself with your doll ; it is too soon, for children, like you, to be witness to such scenes of dissipation as these : but Miss Clann did not chuse to repeat what Mr. Churl said to her ; for the truth is, while Sir Theophilus, and Lady Betty, were engaged in the
card

card room, she had, by a previous engagement, promised to dance with Mr. Summerfield, the curate, and all her attention was engaged to him, and by him.

At this period, Master Bion, who had not been inattentive, though he had been deeply engaged with the toast and butter, the muffins, coffee, and tea, for Bion had had nothing to engage his mind, during the preceding evening, but the objects around him, and his lovely partner. He, therefore, when he found a rest for his head, went into a profound repose, nor did he awake till the call of the maid, at noon, and the more powerful calls of nature, made him leave his downy pillow:

pillow : various ideas had prevented the rest from sinking into immediate slumber. Sir Theophilus was anxious for the success of his son in his future election, and therefore tried all, to keep the company in perfect harmony with him. Lady Betty was too full of her own consequence, in such a group, to soon forget it in sleep.

Miss Clann, (as we have said) was under an engagement, to give as much of her company as she could to Mr. Summerfield, and he improved the favourable moments, to instil a doctrine into her head, which, though not strictly orthodox, she verily believed true, and thought much of it on
her

her pillow. Miss Constantia was fully engrossed by the novelty, having never been at a public ball before, and perhaps, as the young Lord Marly, eldest son of the Earl of Derry, had told her she was the politest girl in the room, it might disturb her rest.

Mr. Clann's whole soul was with Miss Eggerton, the wife of his brother, and it being impossible for him to distinguish her, where he was obliged to attend to the whole company, made him, on retirement, enjoy the contemplating those charms which shone so conspicuously above the rest of the company, while George Augustus Frederic, watching with a circum-

circumspect eye, every wandering look of Miss Eggerton's, flattered himself, he did not discover in that undisguised lovely face, the least predilection in favour of his eldest brother, and therefore hoped, by a little assiduity, he might gain the inestimable prize himself.

This fair and pleasing prospect would not let him sleep, while the amiable husband, and beautiful wife, being constrained to hide those emotions of love and tenderness, they wished to communicate, eagerly embraced the only hours they had of reciprocal love, and an unreserved conversation, it is presumed, might keep them awake.

Bion,

Bion was, therefore, the only one who had enjoyed the privilege of a bed, by sleeping in it, and the consequences attendant on good rest, or a good appetite. Master Bion, therefore, began, by desiring his sisters, as they had been so free with the gentlemen and ladies, to be as candid in their opinion, of what those gentlemen and ladies would say of the present company. Mr. Clann declared it a fair question, but the young ladies declined answering, saying, it was in proper hands, as he had not yet fullied his mind by criticism. Why, said Bion, I cannot say any thing of my papa and mama, but that they are good sort of folks, and conducted themselves with

propriety during the evening. Just, said Miss Clann; Now what do you say of me? Miss Clann, said Bion, was fonder of herself, than any person present, but one. Who was that one, said Sir Theophilus? It could be no other than her partner, Sir George Harpur: the truth is, Miss Clann was dancing with Sir George, when Sir Theophilus, and Lady Betty, retired from the dancing room, to the card table, but no longer had he the honour.

Mr. Summerfield claimed a prior engagement, and was accepted; Miss Clann had declared to him, she preferred a man of letters, to a man of fortune,

fortune, or rank, in the last, the trait of the good sort of a man, appeared, however, Bion's arch looks brought a blush of conviction on the face of Miss Clann, and a little reflection would have forced a sensibility of the recent observation of Lady Betty, on her mind, that she was 'old enough to know better,' had not the impatience of Miss Constantia, to know the opinion of what the world would say of her, suppressed it. Of you, Constantia, said Bion; why the world thinks as I do, that you are a romp still, and I am clearly of Mr. Churl's opinion, you would have been better in the nursery, undressing your wooden baby.

It was with difficulty the counsellor could restrain her from immediate revenge : that it was contrary to decency, she did not regard ; but when he enforced his mandate, that it was contrary to law, in compliment to him she remained inactive, secretly determining to seek a more favourable moment, which she had no doubt of obtaining.

Well, but your brothers, Bion, said Lady Betty, have you nothing to say on them ? Bion bowed with respect to his mother, and observed, he was on the force of criticism : but the elegant manners of his brothers, their polite address, affability, with good sense
and

and grace of figure, set them out of the reach of one, as he was, incapable of forming a panegyric equal to their merit. The young gentlemen bowed to the stripling, for a compliment so gracefully delivered ; and though not received by them as a truth, yet we must do strict justice, in observing, the greatest merit lay in the justness of the observation : Here, a silence of a few minutes prevailed, when Miss Clann asked, Had he nothing to say for Miss Eggerton, his partner ? Oh, said Bion, there I must be for ever silent, clasping his hands ; I must leave that task to an abler judgment, bowing to Mr. Clann ; of this, I can only say, as I was the most honoured,

so was I the most envied of any gentleman in the room, as my Miss Egerton was the handsomest, the most amiable lady there. How difficult, Bridget, was it, for the captain to suppress his emotion, on this declaration: but not one word passed on lord Gaywill's genteel family. Mr. Humphry, you know they are in the opposition.

Although the whole family of Sir Theophilus Clann, except Master Bion, were, from various causes, prevented, profiting, by the time allotted to rest, during the remainder of the night succeeding the ball: we shall not intrude ourselves into the private recesses

recesses of each individual, nor trace the hidden emotions of envy, in some, detraction, pride, self-consequence, a false-flattering superiority, arrogance from presumptuous fortune, nor the humiliating modesty of real worth.

These all operated, no doubt, to check the recreation of forgetfulness, however pleasing the relinquishment might be to the thoughts of modest merit: these, and many more, we shall not attempt to delineate: of this, we are assured, in our own minds, Mr. Summerfield did not sleep, the idea of marrying the daughter of a baronet was pleasing, and more so, with the additional recollection, the

honour would he accompanied with some profit, and a proportionate fortune with Miss Clann, to set him above the servile dependance of forty pounds a year on caprice, and his sole inheritance, were thoughts so pleasing, as we cannot but concur with him, that those hours were better employed, than in an indulgence, only fit for the unfortunate. Miss Clann, from the hilarity of the evening, had been induced to promise more than was consistent with prudence, nay, more than she could perform, for the golden dream was annexed to love, forgetting there was a father (and a mother, tenacious of the honour of her family), who would be totally averse to such an alliance.

And

And when Mr. Churl told her, in his blunt and rude manner, to beware of the ' Snake in the grass,' she could interpret that snake to be no other than himself, who could endeavour to insinuate into her mind, any thought, injurious to the happiness they had mutually promised each other : but there was another, still more restless, the amiable Mr. Compton ; he had long beheld Miss Eggerton, as the object of possession to complete his happiness, and the evening of the ball, where she shone so conspicuously lovely, above all present, and the fascinating sweetness of her manners were so engaging, as rivetted him still faster her slave : he pronounced there was no joy, but with

her; and the intimacy of friendship, with which Captain Clann and himself had ever been, he could not, during the entertainment, help expressing his admiration, and throwing out a distant hint, at his presumptuous hopes, respecting that young lady.

Captain Clann heard, but would not understand, farther, than what every body acknowledged, her being the loveliest woman in the world. He joined Mr. Compton in her praises, but as his warmth of expression might not, (from prudential reasons), be quite so sanguine as the lover's Mr. Compton could not but express wonder at the apathy and coldness with
which

which he spoke of her, whose transcendent excellences surpass all he had ever beheld, of female beauty.

We may presume to say, with authority, that Capt. Clann, was not insensible to the charms of Miss Egerton, (though his wife). He knew how great a value he ought to set on her virtue, and he estimated them as they deserved, very highly ; but Captain Clann being allowed, (or thought to be) a gay, as well as a gallant man, made Mr. Compton the more amazed at his indifference : he told him his full intention of making her an offer of his heart and fortune, neither of which were to be thought undeserving

approbation. His manners, as his appearance, were both amiable, and his fortune, on the death of Doctor Compton, equal in every respect, to Miss Eggerton's; but she was not destined for the consort of Mr. Compton: a still more amiable man enjoyed the satisfaction of hearing those commendations bestowed on her, of whom death alone could deprive him.

DIARY**CONTINUED.**

MONDAY.

MR. Churl is in the drawing room,
Mrs. Bridget. I have just opened the
door, and ushered him in. **Mr.**
Churl, **Mr.** Humphry, is one of those
free visitors, who will introduce him-
self into all company, without invita-
tion;

tion ; the old would excuse him, and the young wish to shun his society. Lady Betty is obliged to be civil, but dislikes his company, because he is always condemning the pride of those who value themselves on birth and ancestry, with no fortune to support either ; while Sir Theophilus, from his natural goodness of heart, treats him with respect, when, to him, he is continually arraigning the folly of your upstart gentry, who value themselves equal with those who can boast a noble genealogy for a century past.

There is no judging of Mr. Churl, when he means what we expect or wish. He is a gentleman of large fortune,

tune, fine endowments, with a deeply read education, as well in the dead, as in the living languages ; with all, of a polite address, and graceful appearance ; his age is not more than forty : In his youth, he was contracted in marriage to a very beautiful young lady, who died before the ceremony took place ; this disappointment made him hate himself, despise the world, and laugh at the folly of those who place any confidence in it. This natural detestation has made him contract a sourness of look, foreign from his natural, though not to his present temper, and makes him carry the appearance of fourscore, in the prime of life.

On

On his entrance, he addressed Sir Theophilus, and Lady Betty, with great politeness: when, turning to Miss Eggerton, who sat at the right hand of Lady Betty, complimented her on the beauty of her smiles, telling her, at the same time, she looked as grave, as if she was married: this brought up a blush like scarlet, in her sweet face, which he added, greatly became her; but had there been any intelligent person in the room, the countenance of Captain Clann, underwent so many different evolutions (from his apprehension some person more curious than cautious, had conveyed the truth) they would soon, in him, have

have read the cause of Miss Egger-ton's rising blush.

They were, however, happily relieved from their embarrassment (to which none were privy, but themselves) by the entrance of Mr. Clann, with Mr. Summerfield, of whom he was fond, as he took great delight in angling, a diversion to which the 'Squire would dedicate many hours in the day, let the season be what it would.

Mr. Churl, immediately accosted Mr. Clann, on the success of the afternoon, as they had been very fortunate in collecting a dish, to decorate the
supper

supper table of Lady Betty: and the young fry, such as perch and gudgeons, who will wanton in the sports of a warm, though faint, sun, at all times luxuriantly enjoying the repasts nature allows them, unheedful of their danger.

Mr. Summerfield, (said Mr. Churl) you are much obliged to Mr. Clann for his protection, otherwise we should indite you at our next quarter sessions for a poacher. Picqued at this reproof, Mr. Summerfield replied, he thought he was in no danger, though he should venture alone to angle for a few perch, any more than when he set springes to catch larks. Take care,

care, returned Mr. Churl, sarcastically, in your springes for larks, you do not entangle lambs.

Miss Clann fully understood the force of his retort, though she would not profit by it, and Captain Clann, seeing his sister's embarrassment, as well to extricate her, as to change the subject, asked abruptly, how he liked the new change in administration, and if he thought the young minister would acquit himself equal to the expectations of the world? or rather his friends, Sir, you should say, said Mr. Churl: The boy is an upstart.

Here Lady Betty thought proper to speak in defence of genealogy, by observing,

serving, he was no upstart, but of an ancient and noble family, and was just beginning to rehearse his pedigree, (from the mother's side) when Mr. Churl silenced her, by saying, that was not the meaning of his observation : he was an upstart in politics, a stripling from school, like Bion, who is playing with his sister's lap dog.

Bion rose from the floor, and made a graceful bow ; his elder brothers found themselves not so flattered. Mr. Clann observed, the abilities of the new minister were above mediocrity, he was a star of commerce, that appeared only at stated periods : a born genius : Mr. Churl shrugged his shoulders,

shoulders, looked doubtful, and then said, he should hope to see him as great a man as his father, or be much disappointed. This declaration made the young gentleman friends with Mr. Churl, immediately, and they all joined in their mutual expectations and praises of him, whose merit will immortalize him for ever.

Mr. Churl, though he hated the follies and perplexities of the world, was, by nature, a benevolent man. Mr. Sinecure held a place in a public office, very lucrative : he had a large family, they lived genteel, and with reputation : no money was saved ; Mr. Sinecure dies ; his place is vacated :
What

What is to become of the family? They must not want, Mr. Churl says; he supplies their necessities, and their appearances are not sunk in their trouble: they know their benefactor, and when he passes the house in his carriage, if any of them are standing at the window, he bows, with the same respect, as a stranger; if he meets them, when walking, enquires after the health of the absent parties, though his morning had been employed solely to find and relieve their wants.

This is not called charity, because not known; nor is it ostentation, because not made a public topic. Mr. Churl is a benefactor to all beneficial
 5 charities,

charities, under the signature of privacy, and they no sooner become known, than they cease to give him satisfaction; but enough of Mr. Churl; he would tell people their follies; the reader must be tired of Mr. Churl's company alone: let them reflect on his private virtues, when in private, and emulate, where emulation is so commendable.

We will return to the fire side of Sir Theophilus Clann, from which place Lady Betty had already drove the favourite pointer of Mr. Clann, called Cæsar, and Miss Constantia's still greater favourite lapdog, Cupid, who had long laid basking in the warmth

warmth of her Ladyship's benignity : they were now in a corner, where Bion was diverting himself, during this political conversation.

Nature had buried the affront and reproach, with both favourites, in sleep ; they were enjoying, in this exile, undisturbed repose : but the lively fancy of Bion could not bear inactivity. At this instant Lady Betty rung the bell for coffee and tea, when the footman, hastily opening the door, roused the natural vigilance of Cæsar, who, alarmed at the approach of an enemy, instantly prepared for his defence, without any rules of war, but what nature had instinctively given him,

him, when, mounting with haste, a vacant chair, he prepared for the attack, finding himself, however, impeded in his assault, he jumped hastily from the chair, to meet his foe, when poor little cupid, who had unluckily, by Bion, been tied tail to tail with his colleague, not being so conveniently placed for a descent as Cæsar, tumbled from the seat, with an alarming vociferation of fear and danger : this redoubled Cæsar's courage, who turned on his foe in the rear : the anger of Cæsar, with the apparent terror of Cupid, caused a general uproar : the pointer barked with incessant irritation, unheedful of his master's check.

Lady Betty lost her usual equanimity, and grew sick and faint. Miss Clann (not knowing what she did) flew to Mr. Summerfield for protection, while Captain Clann, totally lost in every other, the safety of Miss Egerton, (his wife) instantly made formidable the place of her retreat, while Miss Constantia, solely engrossed by her fears, for the preservation of her dog, prepared, with haste, to relieve him from his embarrassment, which presence of mind soon restored the quiet of the drawing room, Mr. Churl taking upon him to correct Master Bion's levity, which was done with a gentle sway, and not without reverting back to those days of juvenile indiscretions,

discretions, which he still remembered, and remembered with regret, as many painful sensations occurred in the retrospect, which never escapes, though not so forcibly felt by minds, warped by the allurements and vices of the world.

Captain Clann, and his sister, soon recollected their inadvertency, and resumed their proper seats, unnoticed by all but Mr. Churl. Miss Clann's motive he perfectly knew ; But how came the Captain to espouse that cause ? Where was Mr. Clann's attention ? not withdrawn from Miss Eggerton ; it could not be.

Mr. Churl was puzzled, and seeing the agitation of the lovely wife, he returned home, baffled, even by his own penetration, but still determined, in his mind, to develop a mystery, his fancied knowledge of the world, made him believe they could not conceal from him.

DIARY,

DIARY,CONTINUED.

You have often asked me, Mr. Humphry, (said Bridget, as she entered the butler's room, with a paper in her hand) you have often asked me to shew you the clause, in my late master's, Sir James Eggerton's, will, re-

G 3 specting

pecting my young lady. Here it is,
I will read it to you : ‘ I likewise give
‘ to my beloved wife, Lady Barbara
‘ Eggerton, two thousand pounds, over
‘ and above her jointure of two thou-
‘ sand per annum, which I settled on
‘ her, previous to my marriage with
‘ the said Barbara, for her sole and
‘ separate use ; and all the rest, resi-
‘ due, and remainder of my personal
‘ property, placed in the several funds
‘ of three per cent. five per cent. and
‘ bank stock, with India Bonds, I
‘ give to my trusty and well be-
‘ loved friends, Theophilus Clann,
‘ and Edward Calcraft, Esqrs. under
‘ this special trust and confidence, ne-
‘ vertheless,

vertheless, that they, the said
 Theophilus Clann, and Edward
 Calcraft, Esqrs. to secure, and take
 ' charge of the same, for the sole
 ' purpose and benefit of my infant
 ' daughter, Barbara Eggerton, till
 ' such time as she attains the age of
 ' twenty one years, not permitting her,
 ' on any account, to engage in mar-
 ' riage, till that period, if possible,
 ' allowing to her mother, Lady Bar-
 ' bara Eggerton, a handsome gratuity
 ' out of the said interests, towards
 ' bringing her up, and to defray the
 ' expence of her education.

' And my will is, that if the said
 ' Barbara Eggerton, my daughter,
 G 4 ' after

after she has attained the age of twenty-one years, and should contract herself in marriage to any person, without the express consent of my friend Theophilus Clann, then I will all her said fortune to be forfeited, and to be divided equally, between the children of the said Theophilus Clann, by Lady Betty Salton, my distant kinswoman, expressing, at the same time, my wish, that a union might be promoted between my said daughter, Barbara Eggerton, when she attains her age of twenty-one years, and Theophilus Clann, the eldest son of my friend Theophilus Clann, now himself a minor.'

So

So you see, Mr. Humphry, there is no provision, (as the Counsel says) made for the disposal of the money, if she should die under age, and it will therefore go to Sir Charles Egerton, the present heir, who enjoys the title and estate.

Well, but Mrs. Bridget, that is very strange. It is no stranger than true, Mr. Humphry, as the Counsellor says, and many learned men have said, before he knew any thing of the matter ; for my dear Lady has been dead these four years. Now if my young Lady should die before she is of age, the Captain will lose his wife, and the fortune too ; and Mr. Clann,

for any body else, cannot marry her, she is one and twenty, for if they do, Sir Theophilus comes in for all the fortune ; and this is what the Captain is to set aside, when my young Lady is of age.

When that happy day comes, Mr. Rule, the money will not be hoarded up ; many poor and indigent will feel the benefit of it. The tears will be wiped from the eye of sorrow, the pillow, which supported the head of corroding care, will be softened. ‘ Bridget (said my Lady), when I am of age, there shall not be a cause for a tear, for two miles round my dear mama’s house, at Broom Grove. I will

will make every body happy : me, and my love, will share in the delights of beneficial assistance, and you shall live with me, Bridget.'

The tears would stand in her own eyes, at the review, and a sigh heave at the apprehensive thought, if the Captain should be ordered away from her ; and that she could curtail others miseries, and feel poignant sorrow herself : but so it is, Mr. Humphry, take the world through, Lady Betty, is unhappy, because she is constrained to converse with people below her, in point of dignity, while Sir Theophilus strives to hide the insignificance of his birth, in my lady's noble genealogy ;

But my young Lady has birth, fortune, rank, beauty, sweetness of temper; she thinks not of these; if the distressed are happy, she is so. Mrs. Mildmay engrosses more of her thoughts (next to her husband), nor does she bestow a wish on the follies and fashions of the world, solely confining all her thoughts in doing good.

In the mean time, Mr. Churl could not reconcile the contradiction of the uproar of the dogs; he was a more frequent visitor at Iddlestone Lodge, than ever. If in his walks round the park of Iddlestone, he met Sir Theophilus (who was a great walker), the slightest invitation brought him to the house :

house: 'Would he not walk in, and ask Lady Betty how she did?' and the invitation kept him to dinner, to tea, to supper: all remained a mystery. Miss Clann had cause to suspect it was on her account, as Mr. Summerfield was a constant visitor; and Miss Clann had grown unaccountably fond of the fry, which were caught for supper.

Lady Betty laughed at her partiality, but Bion, and Miss Constantia, did not see any cause why Nelly should have the preference in the largest fish, which were particularly remarked by her, if chance made her acquainted they were the sportive recreation of
the

the curate. Sir Theophilus and Lady Betty never ate any supper.

Six weeks had elapsed ; the second month of leave of absence had insensibly (no not insensibly) past ; every minute had received its adequate value in the bosom of the apprehensive wife ; the minutes were too precious to lose ; she had rated them as they truly deserved, nor were they less estimable in the amiable partner of her anxieties, and her pleasures.

Captain Clann began to fear, what he too well knew would happen ; and a letter from his colonel, now confirmed it : an order from the War-Office,

Office, that the regiment was to prepare for embarkation to the East Indies, as soon as possible, to relieve those which had been stationed there for three years, and were to return home.

The lovely wife was the first who read the fatal mandate, in the anxiety of him, who could conceal nothing from her; a warrant for execution would have been more welcome to his susceptible bosom: incessantly did she intreat him to resign his commission, to avow his marriage: she would share poverty with him; she would suffer every thing but a separation: in vain her pleadings, the ties of honour,
his

his supplanting his brother, the frowns of an affectionate father and mother.

Will you leave me ? said the supplicating wife, when in private : I must leave you, though death will be to me the parting. Agonizing were their private resources, and tears, mutual and endearing, only cemented a love, which each moment rendered more insupportable, in the idea of the shortness of its duration.

Sir Theophilus received the news with a steadiness becoming a man, jealous for the honour of a son he had so much cause to boast was his, while Lady Betty's maternal tenderness rose in apprehension for the personal safety of

Of this darling child, and subside every thought, which had before been principally awake in her bosom, and the future General would have been dispensed with, to have kept her Algernon in safety with her at Iddlestone Lodge, in preference to all honours, or the crown mural, could it be assigned to him as a reward for his valour.

Lady Betty was by nature of a delicate texture, subject to the extremes of grief or joy ; her terrors increased, as the time drew nearer each day, when the separation was to take place. Her apprehensions were magnified from the force of her sensibility. Lady
Betty

Betty had never known the trial of a long parting from any of her children ; it wrought on her spirits, and produced hysteric fits, in these, her alternate struggles of maternal love.

The sympathizing unknown wife truly bore a part ; she hung over her with a grief, which in this scene, could she dare to shew herself : her tears flowed voluntarily, and with sincerity, while she was agonized into torture, by the assiduous care of Mr. Clann, who was solicitously uneasy, lest her health should suffer from the attention she shewed his mother.

Master

Master Bion said, Miss Egerton seemed as sorry to part from Algernon as his mother : for his part, he wished he was going in his room, she would not cry 'so,' parting from him, and then urged his suit for his father to fulfil his promise of getting him into the navy. Sir Theophilus promised he would. Miss Constantia said, archly, there were gentlemen who would be glad to be the object of Miss Egerton's tears, she alluded to the obsequious devoirs of Mr. Compton, who was now absent, with his uncle, on a visit to London.

Miss Clann remained silent ; indeed her observations were wholly engrossed
by

By Mr. Summerfield. But Mr. Churl, who still visited often at the Lodge, saw, or fancied he saw, a motive more prevalent than the affection Miss Eggerton bore Lady Betty, to excite her emotions : indeed, Miss Eggerton had a great regard for Lady Betty, she was her relation, her adopted mother ; nay, more, she was the mother of him, who was the object of all her solicitude, all her anxiety ; at night only could she unburden her oppressed heart to him ; into his bosom did she pour the remaining tears, rushed by the bed of his parent : prophetic were those tears ; many evils did her imagination paint, would follow, when he was gone. Who will screen your
forlorn

forlorn Barbara, would she say, while hanging with despair on his supporting shoulders? Where shall I hide myself from the solicitude of your brother? I dare not tell I am your wife; and if you should die, poverty and despair must be my portion.

The tender affectionate husband endeavoured to sooth her afflictions, by consolitary admonitions, he should be absent only three years, at the return, she would be of age; he would then claim her as his wife; that he should return in safety; and concluded, with an assurance Providence would protect him for her sake. This hope, the bubble of delusion, kept away the
terrors

terrors of despair, and it was settled between the parting lovers, for Miss Eggerton to remain with her guardian, Sir Theophilus, till the two years had elapsed of her being of age, at which period, if pressed by Mr. Clann, as a lover, she was to give him an absolute refusal ; thus far they settled their future intentions, nor no farther could they look.

The fatal morning arrived, when a post-chaise and four carried Captain Clann from Iddlestone Lodge, to meet his regiment, on their rout to Portsmouth, where they were to embark in one of the Company's ships, for the East-Indies. Iddlestone Lodge was

now a desert ; that once happy spot
 was a desert indeed ; a desert to the
 most unhappy, as once, the happiest
 of women. Who can paint the part-
 ing ? None—For none were privy to
 it : all felt the loss : the enjoyment
 they participated in together was no
 more : a cloud of discontent appeared
 general, while the widow'd wife, only,
 in retirement, found solace in her tears
 and regrets.

DIARY,

DIARY CONTINUED

I Shall note this day (said Mr. Rule to himself), as the most unfortunate I have known since I lived with Sir Theophilus Clann, as it is the day Captain Clann left the Lodge, to embark for the East Indies, for three years; left his beauteous wife, Miss Eggerton: much trouble I fear will attend his absence, I shall note it in
my

my Diary ; as also the day when they were married, which was on the 17th of last November, at St. Dunstan's in the East, in the city of London, having taken lodgings in the parish, and were out-asked by the publishing of banns. Mrs. Bridget Wallace present at the ceremony.

You, Mrs. Wallace, (on her entrance) will never forget this day. No, Mr. Humphry, nor the grief my young lady is obliged to conceal, while her heart is almost bursting.

During the vacuum of serenity, at the manor house, Doctor Compton returned to the vicarage, accompanied

by his nephew, who had, in the excursion, ventured to tell his uncle his attachment to Miss Eggerton, with his wish to have them accomplished; when he had the mortification to hear the clause in her father's Will, and the partiality of Mr. Clann, to his destined consort. Notwithstanding this repulse, he visited at the lodge, under the patronage of his uncle: and as Miss Eggerton wished to throw off all restraint, respecting Mr. Clann's pretensions (and unhappily forced to appear chearful, to hide an aching heart, she conversed with the utmost familiarity with Mr. Compton, who, elated with this flattering dawn of hope, began to think she had no pen-
chant

chant for the future baronet, which had been already discovered by the sagacity of the Councillor, who still entertained similar wishes with the heir of Doctor Compton.

Though Iddlestone lodge had abated in the usual festivity, the village of Iddlestone increased in gaiety. Mr. Cram, (or rather we should say) Nathaniel Cram, Esq. (for he was in the commission of the peace) having a small estate in the village, had lately erected a new and elegant house, under the immediate inspection of Mrs. Cram, and it being now completely finished and furnished, Mr. Cram had, with his household, taken possession of

his new habitation, where he intended to end his days in peace and quiet.

Mr. Cram was a citizen, and a vintner, in the vicinity of Temple Bar; his father left him a competent fortune, gained in the same house. In the early part of his life Mr. Cram married, by which wife he had one son, who, having been indulged by a fond mother, in every folly, at the age of seventeen, by his indiscretions, broke her heart.

Mr. Cram thus left with this retrograde youth, sought solace in the arms of a young wife, Miss Flint, who, having a competent fortune herself, stipulated

stipulated with her old lover, (previous to the marriage) that he should quit his business, keep his coach, build her this house, and, in fact, commence gentleman; an office he was very ill qualified for, being a plain downright man, and not fond of parade or show. Mrs. Cram was otherwise, young and gay; her thoughts were, to appear as Mrs. Cram, the lady of Justice Cram, and though he did not intend ever to act, she soon prevailed on him to take out his dedimus, determining, in her own mind, he should make himself conspicuous in the county, and serve the office of High Sheriff, whenever he was pricked down to appear.

After the marriage of the father, young Cram was left to himself. Master Natty, (as he was called) did as he pleased, and having, by chance, got into the company of some travellers, they had painted the scenes of foreign countries so fancifully, that the youth soon fixed his mind on going abroad : in this he was at first opposed by the father, but Mrs. Cram, whose word was all ascendancy, saying it was a pity to baulk Natty's inclinations ; Mr. Cram assented, and he went under the patronage of the Captain (amply provided with all necessaries) as, what is termed, a Guinea Pig, on a voyage to make discoveries; when they were to be gone two years. In
truth,

truth, Mrs. Cram's removal of Master Natty, was not so much to indulge his inclinations, as a secret wish she had to introduce her own niece into the family of Mr. Cram.

Miss Urfula Vulture had been left an orphan, when young, with a small fortune ; she was the daughter of her favourite sister, and had been mostly under her care, and was now sixteen years old. On the absence, therefore, of young Cram, (her dear Natty) Mrs. Cram was dull, and wanted a companion ; she would lament his absence (tho' she hardly ever had his company) and Miss Vulture was so often fetched, as a companion to her aunt, that Mr.

Cram found it absolutely necessary to detain her.

This was the family which now came to Iddlestone, Mr. Justice Cram and his lady, with Miss Vulture, coach, servants, &c. &c. In country villages it is always customary to visit strangers; the family, at Iddlestone Lodge, paid their respects to Mr. and Mrs. Cram, solely against Lady Betty's inclination, as they were upstart gentry; but a hint from Mr. Churl made her comply: in due time and form, the visit was returned at the Lodge. Mr. Cram, as we have observed, was a citizen; his ideas extended not beyond a Lord Mayor's feast, or a tramping, dirty

dirty walk on the 9th of November, with the Vintner's company, to dine at the Hall, or be made a member of the Court of Assistants, was an honour he would, while a resident in the city, have preferred to the Chief Magistracy.

Mrs. Cram was a citizen's daughter, but her ideas were more enlarged, as we have shewn. Miss Vulture had learnt all the mode of criticism on dress and manners; she had already been taught to distinguish in the gentlemen, which were *bôres*, and which not: many things, in her opinion, were funny, and *such* people carried themselves too lofty, in proportion as

their notice of her became conspicuous ; she was a darling with her aunt, and when the visit was returned at the lodge, began to ingratiate herself into the favor of the Miss Clanns, from different motives ; Miss Clann hoped to make her a tool, to forward her connection with Mr. Summerfield, as in the opinion of such people as Mr. and Mrs. Cram, the attention of the vicar and his curate, is always first sought.

Doctor Compton was, from his fortune, superior to the too often servile attendance of dignified learning, at the table of the ignorant rich ; but Mr. Summerfield soon became intimate,

mate, and a general invitation to eat a bit of mutton, and play a pool at Quadrille, from Mrs. Cram, made it necessary for him to accept it, as often as his engagements from the lodge would let him: this Miss Clann knew, and therefore she effected to admire Miss Vulture.

Now Miss Constantia sought her intimacy from very different effects: they were nearly of an age; Miss Vulture had acquired by her education, what Miss Constantia's years had not yet taught her to forget: she had not looked at herself sufficiently in the glass, to see how much more graceful it was to smile, than to roar out a

horse laugh; or how pleasing gentleness of manners were, to the rude expressions of I will, or I wont, the positive track Miss Vulture had been taught, and which she determined to pursue, the returning visit would have (from that easy familiarity she had acquired), suffered her to have given the Counsellor a slap on the shoulder, for something he said, had not Mrs. Cram checked her, with a 'Fye Ursula—not so free yet;' Miss Constantia joined her in a loud laugh, which by the aunt was thought allowable.

Mr. Cram's house at Iddlestone, had been two years in building; the two years were elapsed, and Master Natty
was

was expected home. Sir Theophilus mentioned him to Mr. Cram, when Mrs. Cram took occasion to say, she hoped to see him soon 'Poor Natty, I long to see him,' said Mrs. Cram, 'he will be so grown, we shall scarcely know him : ' but Mr. Cram spoke from real affection, when he expressed his wishes for his safe return.

Time had cooled the ardour of his second marriage, he therefore recalled to his mind the memory of the mother of his child : he recollected his childish innocence, when he had no instructor but nature ; besides, imbecility crept with certain pace, and Mr. Cram wished in this, his son, to see his future

ture heir. Mrs. Cram had marked the returning affection of Mr. Cram, for his Nat, and therefore thought it most expedient for her, to contrive, and bring about a match with her son-in-law, and Miss Vulture.

Now it was universally allowed, and with truth, that nature had not been too liberal of her favours to young Mr. Cram, in the endowments of his mind; there was barely a sufficiency: He was credulous, easily drawn away, and a dupe to every suggestion; these qualifications rendered him the more fit for Mrs. Cram's purpose, and as there was a large fortune, which he must inherit, Miss Vulture thought
that

that always sufficient to balance every defect, either of nature or education.

Mrs. Cram, however, did not fail to represent him to her niece as a very smart young man, and continually to Mr. Cram, was expressing her own expectations, that his son would return home much improved; these were hints thrown out to attract Miss Vulture, who regarded nothing but a competency, that she might figure in dress, and appear superior to those whom she never could equal; rapacious in her nature, her whole heart was wrapt in the accommodation only of herself, unfeeling to the miseries or the wants of others; her own fortune, therefore,

therefore, though, with œconomy, it might have aided and relieved the afflictions of others, was not sufficient to gratify her own pride. Where people are humbled by misfortunes, a little given with a willing and a chearful heart, will suffice to relieve the necessities of human infirmities. That, however, a more enlarged acquaintance might make Miss Vulture more in favour with the daughters of Lady Betty, it soon (from her contracted liberal notions), made her the detestation of the ward of Sir Theophilus Clann.

This unhappy deserted wife of the most amiable of men, was compelled

to

to join a circle, in which Miss Vulture bore a part. Miss Eggerton was called on to associate with them in all their gaieties, while her heart, thoughts, and wishes, were now many miles from her native land. A letter fraught with the most tender and affectionate professions of eternal constancy, and unfeigned truth, (under cover to Mrs. Wallace), had informed her of their being under sail about a fortnight since,

But at this period, the brigg called the Providence, Captain Frankland, commander, arrived in the river, from a voyage to the South Seas, where she had been to explore a south-west passage, and in her, came to England,
 young

young Mr. Cram, who, impatient to see his father, soon joined the group at Iddlestone, in which Miss Egger-ton was of the party.

It is necessary to observe, that amidst many charges from Mr. Cram, to Captain Frankland, respecting his son, was the care of him : now this, taken in a literal sense, means his personal safety, and in that light, Capt. Frankland took the charge, though Mr. Cram meant more in the expression, as his improvement was joined in the wish, which unhappily the Captain mistook, and confining himself solely to the real meaning of the words, never suffered him out of his sight, but
with

with a guard of two or three sailors; and as he always eat with the Captain, the best of provisions fell to his share; and therefore, in Mrs. Cram's expectations of his improvement, it was in the corpulency of his person, as he was grown fat, and naturally, we may conclude, what he gained at the captain's table, in his improvements, he lost in his mental instructions, with those companions who had the guard of his person.

Thus was young Mr. Cram, when he return'd to England; his father had left an order with an intimate friend, to inform him of his place of residence, and the next day after his arrival, he
set

set off for Iddlestone, which place he did not reach till between ten and eleven o'clock at night, the delay, partly owing to his ignorance, and a growing curiosity to notice every thing on the road.

When he arrived at Iddlestone, it was, as we have observed, late : the villagers were some retired, others retiring to rest. On his enquiry at the inn, for the house of Mr. Cram, his appearance raised a doubt, whether his errand was strictly just, being dressed in a blue jacket and trowsers, to people bred in an inland country, appeared formidable ; they refused to tell the abode of our hero's father, till he, travelling

velling out in quest of better information, was, by the aid of a shilling, conducted by a poor peasant to the gate of his father's hospitable mansion.

Now the gate was so situated, as to be at a distance from the house, therefore, when Master Nathaniel rung the bell, his impatience would not brook the supposed delay of the servant; he rang again, on which, when the servant came to the gate, and beheld the appearance of the visitor, he was not disposed to be very civil; indeed, the young 'squire's figure was not very engaging: he was near twenty years of age, tall, muscular, and as we have observed, fat; his complexion likewise was fallow,

low, and sun burnt, from the heat of foreign climates : he had withal, a black patch over one of his eyes, from a slight affray he was engaged in the preceding evening ; such an appearance we cannot suppose excited much respect from the servant, although the heir to his master : and on his bluntly asking if Mr. Cram lived there, was rudely answered, in return, ‘ Yes, what was that to him ? ’ What is that to me, said Nat, and was proceeding to enter, when the servant slam’d the door, and making it fast within side, hurried to the house, declaring it was beset by thieves, for one was in a sailor’s jacket. This gave the alarm to Mr. Cram, who, declaring it was
his

his Nat, after taking an escort of servants as a body guard, proceeded to the gate, but not before they had had repeated rings from the bell, to give notice who was there, when Mr. Cram came to the gate; he there saw his son indeed, but not the returned finished gentleman, from travelling. Instead of a bended knee for a blessing, as Mrs. Cram expected, he gave his father a hearty shake by the hand, telling him he was glad to see him alive, and then asked how his mother-in-law did: Very well, said Mr. Cram, rejoiced at the sight of his son; come in, she will be glad to see you: They then walked into the house, followed by the servant who had so ill treated his
young

young master, which he observing, bid him not to hang a stern, for a friend was often taken for an enemy at sea, when under false colours, looking at his own jacket and trowsers.

On their arrival at the house, Mrs. Cram, with Miss Vulture, were guarding the door, to receive either friend or foe ; the sight of young Cram dissipated all their fears ; he saluted his mother-in-law, and on her presenting Miss Vulture to him, as her niece, he gave her a hearty smack (not a polished salute), saying, she was a tight lass, and would weather a heavy gale.

On being seated, Mr. Cram, fearing he had met with an accident abroad,
enquired

enquired into the cause of his patch on his eye, when he informed his father, that the preceding evening, in coming through Covent Garden, to the house of Mr. Nack, his friend, a young woman begged his assistance, for the impudent fellow, who had hold of her, was taking her away to his home, and said she was his wife : pitying the poor woman, said Nat, I knocked him down, and carried her away, but not before he had given me a blow on my eye, as you see. I had not got far, he continued, when she very prudently bid me good night, saying, she had a jealous husband at home. Did you lose nothing, said Mr. Cram ? Oh, yes, said Nat, the rogue contrived to

take my purse, when the truth was, the man was constable for the night, and was carrying her to the watch-house, and in return for the civility of the credulous young man, she had picked his pocket, and made an early retreat.

The next morning news being circulated of the arrival of young Mr. Cram, compliments of enquiry came to the justice from all the neighbouring gentry, among the rest, Sir Theophilus and Family sent their congratulations, and the defect of his eye being so much mended, as to remove the bandage, Mr. Cram being eager to introduce him to so polite a family, carried him in his coach to Iddlestone Lodge, .

Lodge, where he was received by Sir Theophilus and his sons, with Lady Betty, and her daughters, in the genteelst manner. Miss Eggerton too, had an introduction to the traveller.

It is necessary to remark, that at the first appearance, Miss Vulture beheld with disgust her intended husband; but the idea of his fortune, soon subdued these prejudices. Miss Vulture had, however, no attractive graces to captivate at first sight, he soon beheld her with indifference, but the powerful charms of Miss Eggerton caught him at once.

Young Cram had, during his excursion, purchased, at a cheap rate, a virtue and a vice, inherently allowed to be almost the property of all travellers. An open expanded liberality, and a talent at exaggeration, or what is called, dealing in the marvellous ; but as his mental abilities could not curb the excesses of either ; by reason, his liberality amounted to profusion, and his relations to incredibility ; he, however, with Miss Eggerton, gained some favour ; she liked him for his expanded ideas, and she laughed at his juvenile fallies.

Miss Constantia, too, was an admirer of his incredible stories ; he told
of

of a ship made of stone, with sails and masts of the same materials, which past Cape Horn ; as likewise near the South Sea, of a cave, which sent forth horrible groans of mermaids and sea monsters ; with many others, which he told so often, he at last believed himself to be true, while the father would say, ‘ Nay, nay, Nat, that is going too far,’ on which the sailor would confirm it.

Miss Constantia listened to all with a mindful attention peculiar to a young mind, that Mr. Nathaniel, or young Mr. Cram, as he was now called, began soon to think Miss Constantia listened to the stories for the sake of

the relator, but his mind was fixed on Miss Eggerton ; and before a fortnight was elapsed, an opportunity offered, when he told her he loved her ; and if so be that she was willing, father would give him a good fortune, and they would be married. What say you, Miss, (said the contracted sailor, to the all accomplished Captain Clann,) are you willing to be my wife ? Miss Eggerton heard his declaration with astonishment, and after some hesitation, told him ' she was engaged.' Nat, who never burthened his mind with a secret, told the whole story, and how he should have liked her for a wife, concluding with her declaration, that she was engaged ; and if that is the case,

case, says the youth, I scorn to invade any man's property.

This declaration coming to the ears of young Mr. Clann, fanned into a flame the vital warmth of his heart, concluding it could be no other than himself meant. And indeed, the story of the intended union between Miss Eggerton, and Mr. Clann, having been told to the sailor, he corroborated it as a certainty.

Mr. Summerfield, and young Mr. Cram, soon became very intimate, for Nat said, he loved parsons, for they taught them what was right, if they went wrong themselves. Mr. Sum-

merfield thought him a proper tool for his purpose, while Miss Vulture was boiling with spleen, at the little notice young Cram took of her, as was the aunt, though she did not dare to show it ; indeed, nothing was farther from Mr. Cram's intention, than for his son to have Miss Vulture, and as he had been repulsed by Miss Eggerton, from a pre-engagement, he looked to a daughter of Sir Theophilus Clann's, as a fit and proper partner for him, in her stead.

Mr. Churl too, was very intimate at Mr. Cram's, not that he could admire the fo'ks, but he loved to mix with diversities of people and opinions,
that

that he might read all mankind. Young Nat called him the philosopher, and often said, he wished he had taken him to sea with him, that he might have mended his manners.

We come now to a very interesting part of our Diary. Captain Clann had been gone above two months, and the young and timid wife began to fear an evil, greater than his absence, was like to befall her, and what, at any other time, would have been the greatest happiness, had he been at home, would now be the source of the greatest misery, she believed herself pregnant. Under such a circumstance, what was to be done, when there was only Mrs.

Wallace to consult, and she was insufficient to the task ? No time was to be lost ; every moment was precious in such a situation, yet, what was to be done, as they had not provided against an event so critical : if she declared her marriage, while under age, her fortune was forfeited : if she absented herself from Sir Theophilus's house, and went into some remote place, how was she to subsist, as her usual stipend of three hundred a year, would, must be withheld. Mrs. Bridget having intrusted Mr. Humphry with the first secret, it now became necessary to confide to him the second, and to rely on his advice, it was at length mutually agreed, that if Miss Eggerton absented

sented herself, and remained privately concealed, her guardians could not dispose of her fortune, as they knew not either that she was married, or dead ; not that she had any doubt, but Sir Theophilus and Lady Betty would soon be reconciled to the union ; yet, as she had solemnly promised to keep the secret, till Captain Clann returned to England, she was determined to endure every hardship, rather than betray his confidence.

After a delay of a fortnight, it was settled that she should go down to Chepstow, in Monmouthshire, to a sister of Mrs. Wallace's, (who was herself a native of that place) and Mr.

Rule (having the management of all Sir Theophilus's affairs), should remit her a hundred a year, during her stay there; and if it chanced Sir Theophilus settled his accounts in that time, Mr. Rule was to make up the deficiency himself, out of his own fortune, which, from an habitual parsimony, was now considerable.

Amidst all these, her own distresses, to leave the opulent table of her guardian, to be confined to a narrow pittance of fortune, with an increase of maternal expences, and no father to adopt and protect his own offspring. Yet did the wife lament, that in this, her circumscribed voluntary resource,

resource, it would prevent her from giving the assistance she had wont to do to Mrs. Mildmay, born and bred in affluence, now exposed to poverty, by the misconduct of a husband, by nature a tyrant, equally intemperate and improvident, disregarded her, and her innocent family, who, but for Miss Eggerton's humanity, must have been exposed to the insults of an unfeeling and unpitying world: but Miss Eggerton was yet too young to know the deceptions of mankind, or their fallacy, which, from practices immemorable, was made a law of nature. Mr. Mildmay was bad; yet are there many Mr. Mildmays, but few who meet with a Miss Eggerton, to soften
and

and alleviate the pangs, by a generous and unsolicited assistance.

There was no alternative, after the plan of Mrs. Wallace's sister's house at Chepstow was proposed for the place of retirement and secrecy. In about a fortnight, therefore, the young and beauteous bride, the lovely wife, left the house of her guardian, Sir Theophilus Clann, and having appointed to meet the stage, at a certain place on the road, was conducted from thence, in safety, to Chepstow. A son of the widow, at whose house she was to reside, having, by appointment, come up on purpose to conduct her safe to that abode.

Here,

Here, at Chepstow, was no fine wrought hangings to grace the apartments of the heiress to Sir James Eggerton; no costly furniture; no burnished pier glasses: all was neat, plain, and simple; the whitened wall enclosed the room, and round her (when sleep had stolen unperceived), hung the drapery of striped green and yellow; under this canopy (not of state), Miss Eggerton slept secure, though not undisturbed, peaceful, though not in peace. Chepstow was a neat pleasant town, bordering on the Severn: nothing at Chepstow can now engage our attention, save the bosom of the newly arrived stranger: but we will not at present intrude ourselves into that recess: a return to Idlestone Lodge, will afford sufficient

matte-

matter for entertainment, to which place we will hasten, with more speed than we pursued, when on our way to Chepstow.

On the morning preceding the early hour, when Miss Eggerton left the lodge, her not appearing in the breakfast parlour (as usual) caused a delay, till Bion said, he would go and rouse the sluggard : on tapping several times at her door, and receiving no answer, he returned with the information ; when Mrs. Wallace was summoned into the parlour, to go and attend her young lady (as she was always called), with notice, the company waited below : on her second appearance, it
would

would not be doing justice to Mrs. Bridget's theatrical abilities, in the pathetic exclamation, if we did not declare her to be equal to the first performer, in the power of deception; Oh! Sir, Oh! My Lady, said the affrighted Mrs. Bridget (surprize and terror visibly marked in her countenance): My young lady is not there, but this note, Sir, was on the toilet. Sir Theophilus, with impatience, took it, (to whom it was directed) expressive of her continued respect for himself and Lady Betty, declaring an attachment had compelled her to make a voluntary retreat from his protection, not doubting but a future day would cause an ecclaircissement, in which himself

self and lady Betty would again reinstate her in their good opinion, however she might now apparently forfeit it.

On reading the billet, it increased their surprize ; the 'Squire and Counsellor shewed manifest marks of disapprobation and vexation, arising from the same cause, with this advantage to the Counsellor, that his distrefs bore the appearance of brotherly affection, and enhanced his merit. Miss Clann, with great caution, ventured to say, it often happened, the most prudent were guilty of the greatest indiscretions.

Lady

Lady Betty lamented the stain on the honour of her noble ancestors ; but Miss Constantia avowedly and freely declared her approbation of Miss Eggerton's conduct, in having the man she loved, when there was a fortune sufficient for both, and then hinted at a possibility it might be young Mr. Cram : she was, however, severely rebuked by Lady Betty, and brother, for her levity and imprudence. A silence following the rebuke, Bion took advantage of it, by observing, he was at first as much surpris'd as the rest, but on recollection, his amazement sub sided, as Miss Eggerton was not the only one who had lately left Iddlestone. Oh ! Mr. Compton is gone too,

said

said Miss Constantia ; this suggestion brought all to reflection, and what, on any other occasion, would not have been regarded, was now brought and affirmed as proof positive, she was accompanied in her flight, by the nephew of Doctor Compton.

It now appeared very evident why Mr. Compton had absented himself so long from the lodge : why, when he came to take his leave, previous to his journey, he was so indifferent in his respects to Miss Eggerton, to whom his known partiality was ever acknowledged, it was very evident they parted to meet soon again, and Mr. Compton's going a few days before her, was
a mat-

a matter previously settled, as a deception : their declarations were so prevalent, that Sir Theophilus determined to pay an immediate visit to Doctor Compton, accompanied by Mr. Clann, and see if the unsuspecting good man was privy to the transaction. They went, when the ladies retired to Lady Betty's dressing room.—Miss Clann renewed the conversation relative to the fugitive wife, by taking notice to her mama, that she had observed a reserve of behaviour in Miss Eggerton, ever since they had been returned to the lodge, she had never wished to associate with the cheerful, and liked to retire to her own apartment ; and she had likewise remarked her

her to be particularly circumspect in her conduct, before her brother Algernon, when he was at home, as if she feared the penetration of his observation ; and indeed, she used to think Algernon was apt to observe her actions and words too attentively.

On Mrs. Bridget's entering her lady's room, Miss Clann addressed her, with what she had remaining to say : ' Bridget, I should have suspected you to have been privy to this flight, had not the natural fright you was in have convinced me you were ignorant of it.' Me, Miss, said Bridget, no, Miss, I would not have been intrusted with the secret for the world, Miss, I am sure,

sure, if I had, I should have discovered it, from the great regard I have for my lady and the family. No, Miss, I never would be trusted with a secret in all the services I have been, and I have been out in the world ever since I was fourteen years old. I did not, I am sure, ever think my young lady would have done so. My poor mistress, what would she have said, had she been alive.' Yes, Bridget, said Lady Betty, the reproach on the honour of the family would have killed her, had she seen this day.

But we will accompany the gentlemen to Doctor Compton's, whom they found sitting in his study, reading ;

ing ; he received them with great affability and good humour ; but on observing a gravity of behaviour, unusual in them, he, on enquiring the cause, was informed of the unexpected event, as well as their suspicions respecting his nephew.

The Doctor heard the relation with astonishment, but assured them (and with great truth) his nephew was gone to visit some relations they had in Wales, of which country the Doctor himself was a native ; they returned home apparently satisfied with his affirmation, at least, that he was ignorant of it : but however they were satisfied, they had created doubts in
the

the good man's breast, he could not totally appease, for on reflection, he thought it possibly might be so; for it was proof positive, Mr. Clann (whatever his and their intentions might be) was not the favoured lover of Miss Eggerton; but as the Doctor could not, from concealed circumstances, give them the full assurance they wished, where his nephew, and to what place he was gone, so he thought it was possible their suspicions might be true, and the young known lover have deceived him; the matter was this: George Compton, the nephew, was the only son of the eldest brother of Doctor Compton, who was left, by his father, to the possession of a

very fine estate, but a train of dissipation, with the pernicious vice of gambling had entirely ruined him, and all those advantages of birth, education, and fortune, totally destroyed and lost, he was a gentleman of great natural endowments, which were improved by an extensive education: his wit, his vivacity, and agreeable manners, made his company desired and sought, when in the zenith of his fortune, by the first personages in the kingdom. These, with a train of other extravagancies, at last reduced him to the want of a dinner, or the comforts of cleanliness in the change of linen or apparel; under this debasement of intellectual perfection, he associated
.. with

with the lowest of the human race ; he would lodge in the ashes of a glass-house, to screen him from the inclemencies of cold, or wander all night for want of a bed to rest his weary limbs upon : under these circumstances, the temptation to err, became too prevalent, and with a few more, as dissipated as himself, he joined to commit an act, which made him inimical to the laws of his country.

Doctor Compton had taken his son from him, at the age of six years, at which time his mother died ; and when this event happened, he (that the ignominy attending a public trial, might not stain the reputation of a

family hitherto unfullied) agreed to settle a hundred a year on him, and to make his son his heir, provided he would banish himself from his native country, to return no more.

This was readily agreed to by the aggressor, who retired to a remote part of Ireland, whither he had been gone four years; at the expiration of the first year, a report prevailed, Mr. Compton had died, in France, and as such, a surmise prevented every danger which might arise from any judicial proceedings against him, Doctor Compton, by his silence, tacitly confirmed it as a truth, and it was generally believed he was dead.

Now

Now though the follies and vices of Mr. Compton were great, yet his refinement of understanding, with his elegance of manners, and tender affection for his son, could not be forgot by George Compton : he had a filial and affectionate regard for a father, who had always treated him with extreme tenderness: to console themselves, therefore, in this their separation, it was agreed to hold a mutual intercourse by letters, which continued (unknown to the uncle) till this critical period of the elopement of Miss Eggerton, when a letter was received by him, to say, that his father lay in a very dangerous state, and it was feared he would not recover.

K 3

Fired

Fired and alarmed at this information, his duty was roused, and he wished to receive the dying benediction of a parent he so much regarded, as he knew he could not gain his uncle's approbation, he wrote to a younger brother of his father's, who lived at Carmarthen, informing him of the dangerous situation of his father, and wishing to pay him the respect he owed to the author of his existence ; he therefore begged him to press for his company at Carmarthen, and if his uncle's assent was obtained, he would visit his parent first, in Ireland, and make Wales in his return home.

The

The letter was received, and Doctor Compton immediately gave his leave for him to go ; in consequence, Geo. Compton went, as he intended, first, to the side of the sick bed of a fond father ; but as we have observed, Dr. Compton had doubts raised by Sir Theophilus, he therefore wrote to his brother at Carmarthen, to know if his nephew was there ; but we can only form a conception of his surprize, when he received an answer, that he was not yet arrived.

Urged by resentment at his nephew's duplicity of conduct, he hesitated not to acquit himself of any charge they might lay to him, as con-

K 4

niving

niving at his conduct, and being convinced, in his own mind, George was the aggressor, to exculpate all prejudice the family at the lodge might entertain, he shewed Sir Theophilus the letter, and avowed his belief of his nephew's dishonourable conduct. This letter confirmed only to them all what they before believed, and in the warmth of the good uncle's resentment at the atrocious act (as he called it), he wrote a letter to meet him, when he arrived at Carmarthen, expressive of his anger, and an account of all his and Miss Eggerton's proceedings, hinting, at the same time, an intention he had of disinheriting him for so base an action.

This

This letter had scarcely left the vicarage, before another came from Carmarthen, with an account of the arrival of young Compton, in health and safety, at that place : the incautious proceeding of the uncle, who knew where he was gone, making it necessary to quiet the suspicions of the Doctor, though the nephew had no apprehension from what cause they proceeded, till he received the second letter.

In the mean time, the absence of so lovely a woman as Miss Eggerton, an heiress, and the supposed intended wife of the young 'Squire, (for Nat. Cram had circulated her refusal of him

to that only) could not be kept a secret. It was first wispered at all tables, with 'I hear, but I hope it is not true; what a pity it is if it should be so,' and then the confirmation, with 'who would have thought so much apparent innocence as Miss Eggerton possessed, could be so fly:' at Justice Cram's table it was discussed with much acrimony, by Miss Vulture, and her aunt. 'I think,' said Miss Vulture, 'Mr. Cram, you had a lucky escape,' 'Yes,' said the aunt, (who always joined the niece) 'if she has these tricks, son, you might have found she had worse, when too late to repent. The justice remained silent; it was not a cause brought before him, but

but the young 'Squire, Nathaniel, only shrugged his shoulders, and observed, ' He did not think Miss Egerton would have flipt her cable, and put to sea without a convoy : ' how-
somedever, he and Master Clann were both in the same mess, and he liked her still, never-the-less. Mrs. Cram said, he need not have gone so far for a wife, for a lady with less fortune might have made him happier.

Mr. Churl, too, when the intelligence reached him, went to the lodge, but he had nothing to learn, all the mystery was now unfolded, he saw the attachment, and as his knowledge of the world had arose from disap-
K 6 point-

pointments, he always made a point never to raise a doubt, though he himself had come to a certainty, he remained silent, except on Sir Theophilus mentioning the injury it was to his son's wishes ; he replied, laconically, ' it were a pity.'

Three weeks had elapsed, the wonder of the day began sensibly to decline ; Miss Eggerton was not thought on in the neighbourhood of Iddlestone lodge, except brought up as an example to daughters, by mothers who remembered not when they were young ; the observations seldom turned in favour of the injured innocent wife.

Mr.

Mr. Clann, now, from disappointment, or more perhaps from hurt pride, (though we will do him the justice to say, he loved Miss Eggerton with a sincerity of affection) returned to his companions at Oxford. The Counsellor again made his appearance at the Temple ; he now turned over dusty law books, trite and old adages ; but none could he find, to reconcile him to a loss he was compelled to support. Bion was teasing for the navy. Miss Clann, from the absence of her brother, did not see so frequently her adopted partner : their meetings were forced to be clandestine : the temple in the garden, and Elm-lane, adjoining the park, were only privy to their stolen

stolen meetings, which were carried on with much caution, from fear of Miss Constantia's making a discovery, or the still more sagacious Bion. From the apparent indifference of the family, however, the world did not scruple to say they looked more to the attaining Miss Eggerton's Fortune, than the loss of that deserving and truly amiable young lady.

When the second letter from Doctor Compton arrived at Carmarthen, it was read by the nephew, with the utmost astonishment and vexation: from his infancy, when he was taken to be under his uncle's care, he had been treated by him with the tender-

ness of a parent; the superintending of his education had been observed by the Doctor with the greatest circumspection: it was not only liberal, but attained the purity of refinement.

George Compton happily inherited all the attractive accomplishments of his father, in his understanding, his vivacity, and the elegance of his manners, without imbibing any of those vices which had involved him in such perplexities. He could not, therefore, read the charge of his uncle, but with the utmost abhorrence, still increased with his displeasure, and a determination to deprive him of that inheritance, his word, and his indulgence

gence had taught him to look to in future, when death should deprive him of so good a friend and parent.

An hour's reflection, however, brought his mind into a more composed frame, and he wrote in terms the most expressive of affection, to the Doctor, assuring him he was in no manner, either as a principle or accessory, concerned in Miss Eggerton's flight from Iddlestone lodge ; that a circumstance, of too delicate a nature to trust to paper, caused his absence from Carmarthen, when his first letter arrived there, which he should inform him of, when he returned home, and not doubting his approbation of his
conduct

conduct he should continue at Carmarthen, the time his indulgence had permitted him to stay ; concluding, with the assurance he never would do any thing unworthy of himself, or the honour he had, in being allowed to subscribe to his being his nephew.

The Doctor, on the receipt of this letter from George Compton, hastened immediately to the lodge, to communicate the contents to Sir Theophilus, and Lady Betty, who apparently seemed satisfied with the declaration ; but when the Doctor was gone, they exchanged their opinions, and at last mutually agreed, that the delicate cause of his absence, which could not
be

censure : for my part, said Miss Constantia, I would believe Mr. Compton's assertion on his bare word, without those powerful inducements of interest, which would lead him not to deceive his uncle. Bridget, said she, do you think Mr. Compton has stolen Miss Eggerton ? Upon my word Miss, indeed, said Bridget, hesitating, I cannot tell, but indeed, I do not think he did. I am sure—What are you sure of, said Lady Betty (hastily) ? I am sure, said the embarrassed maid, Mr. Compton was not the favourite of my young lady. Are you sure of that, said Lady Betty ? Can you say, as surely, who was ? Mrs. Wallace, under pretence of fetching something, hurried

hurried from her lady's apartment, and going to Mr. Humphry, told him how she had been interrogated by her lady, with her fears they had suspicions she was acquainted with the cause, as well as the place of Miss Eggerton's retreat.

Mr. Compton left his uncle's house, at Carmarthen, at the time he purposed, intending to lengthen his journey, by calling on a gentleman who lived near Chepstow, and was an associate with him at the same college, at Cambridge: he put up his carriage at Chepstow, in passing through the town, and crossing the market-place, towards his friend's house, met Miss Eggerton.

Eggerton. We will however, now, totally drop that name, as the protection of her surviving guardian, Sir Theophilus Clann, is entirely relinquished, (Mr. Calcraft being dead), and call her Mrs. Clann, though the name she went by, at Chepstow, was Eggerton. Mr. Compton, on seeing her there, started with surprize, while Mrs. Clann, in the hurry and confusion of thought, first supposed he came purposely in search of her, or otherwise, finding out the place of her retreat, and understanding Mr. Clann was not the man of her choice, he had wished to renew his former intention of making her an offer of his heart and fortune : embarrassed, as they both were, by
this

this unexpected meeting, Mr. Comp-ton soon recovered his recollection, and saying she was the person he least hoped to see, but at the same time, had the greatest reason to wish for an interview with, increased her agitation.

It now remained no doubt to her, why he was at Chepstow : he saw the visible perturbation of her heart, and imagining it proceeded from the reports which were circulated respecting himself, or that possibly she might have favoured it to secrete the real lover: he begged, as a particular favour, to see her home, as he had a reason too powerful to resist, when the opportunity was so much to his satisfaction.

It

It was a request Mrs. Clann could not refuse, and they proceeded together, to the house of Mrs. Bristow, Mrs. Wallace's sister, where she lodged.

Mr. Compton, after expressing his surprize at meeting her at such a distance from Iddlestone Lodge, related the whole circumstance of her absence, of his visit to Carmarthen, and to his father, who was supposed dead, and then shewed her the letter, wherein he was accused of being the companion of her flight.

The amiable wife was in a truly distressed situation; her visible confusion increased those charms which
 had

had been so injurious to his repose: he revived that hope, and in the revived hope, flattered himself her elopement proceeded from a dislike to Mr. Clann, solely, and she might not have chosen a companion in her flight. Urged by these flattering bosom-felt wishes, he made her the offer of that protection, which he now almost wished she had chosen: he would have hazarded all those evils the threatening mandate in his pocket denounced, if he had been, and what he would now embrace.

In this declaration of Mr. Compton, there was no alternative left: Mrs. Clann was compelled to tell him
she

she was a wife, but to whom, was to remain a secret. She then conjured him by that love he professed, not to divulge the place of her retreat ; he, in return for the confidence placed, vowed, on the word of a man of honour, nothing should wring the secret from his breast, and in this assertion, he knelt down on one knee, and kissed her hand, as a solemn seal, to attest his integrity.

While in this posture, Mrs. Britton came hastily into the room; but seeing them thus situated, presently retired, in this persuasion, however, that Mrs. Clann was not a married woman, as a husband would not be in

that humiliating posture, though a lover might, and secretly arraigned the conduct of her sister in deceiving her. However, she kept this opinion to herself, as she was well paid for her attendance on her ; and the natural amiableness of Mrs. Clann's manners, endeared her to every body.

Mr. Compton returned to the vicarage of Iddlestone, and was graciously received by his uncle : the tender secret was told to exculpate him from the charge of which he was accused. The Doctor forgave the breach of obedience to himself, as he could not but approve an act of filial duty, where the transgression of the man was almost to be forgot in the transcendant qualities

ties he possessed, and from which he had so much deviated, or so little profited by.

Mr. Compton acquitted himself to a thorough conviction at the lodge, only Miss Clann remained doubtful, young Mr. Cram was frequently at the lodge, he had ingratiated himself into the favour of the young ladies, from his blunt manner of speech, and sea phrases, and he made himself the more acceptable, by generally bringing Mr. Summerfield with him, at least, to Miss Clann ; besides, they had lost the society of their sensible brothers, and to social minds, any company is better than none, notwithstanding Lady Betty's endeavours to convince

L 2 them.

them, how much more edifying it were to sit alone, or enjoying the amusement of a book, or music, to the conversation of people so low, and of such mean extraction.

Mr. Cram, himself, was a great politician, he read the debates of Parliament, and had a news paper every day remitted him from town ; this was a recreation he enjoyed while drinking his coffee and tea at breakfast. Mrs. Cram could not bear politics, she would often take the paper from his hands, or his spectacles from his nose, tenderly complaining she had none of his conversation. ' My dear, why will you pore over that nasty newspaper :'

paper :’ Here Natty, you read it: This he would do immediately, to oblige her, and in reading the list of the sheriffs for the ensuing year, when he came to Huntingdonshire, he read, with the voice of a boatswain, ‘ Nathaniel Cram, of Iddlestone, Charles Hall, of Kimbalton, and Robert Stoddart, of Buckworth, Esqrs.’ Is it so, said Mrs. Cram, with alacrity? Mr. Cram caught the paper from his son : he no sooner read the same, than laying the paper down again, said, with seeming importance, and at the same time, a determination – ‘ I’ll not serve, I’ll fine.’ Fine, said Mrs. Cram ; sure, Mr. Cram, you will shew more spirit : you that talk of ministers and

L 3 statesmen,

statesmen, refuse to serve your country when called on. La ! Uncle, said Miss Vulture, ~~do~~ be sheriff, we shall then go to the ~~sees~~ ; and, said Mrs. Cram, it will be the means of introducing your son into good company, and letting him be known to the world, and teaching him genteel manners : as to manners, said the young gentleman, I do not much matter them ; I have enough, and have seen the world enough, but I should like to be known. I knew as how, mother and my cousin Ursula would be for it at once. Mr. Cram made no reply, but calling for his wig and cane, set out for the lodge, to consult Sir Theophilus how he should, or
could

could contrive, not to serve, and yet evade the fine, for as his years increased, avarice had, as usual with age, increased with it, and he grew each day fonder of his money, as every minute made it of less service to him.

He set out for the lodge, leaving the aunt and niece exulting in the figure they should make all the summer: Mrs. Cram would have two horses added to the coach, the livery should be changed, and the servants have silver *apauletts*, as well as their neighbours: and why not, Miss Vulture said? for uncle could afford it as well as they.

Mr. Cram did not receive much satisfaction from his visit to the baronet, Sir Theophilus had served the office about two years before, having had a liberal education himself, and associated with good company, he made a figure as became a gentleman of opulent fortune ; but Mr. Cram was deficient in these particulars : he only knew good company from their frequenting his house as a tavern, and the extent of his learning was in a just arranged profitable bill, when called for, and a bow of the head, with ‘ thank ye gentlemen,’ when he was paid : he was sensible of his inability, and finding from Sir Theophilus, he must either serve, or pay the fine, returned
home

home musing on the pain of refunding what lay so secure in the bank, or attending to the arguments of his wife and niece, respecting the introduction of his heir to the world, but on that point he need not have puzzled himself, for it was already settled past revocation, by Mrs. Cram at home, and she and Miss Vulture began to grow impatient for the time, when he was to commence high sheriff for the county of Huntingdon.

Now Mr. Cram had views diametrically opposite to Mrs. Cram, she and her niece did still entertain the hopes of making Miss Ursula coheir with the son in the fortune he would

inherit, but Mr. Cram had never entertained a thought of such an alliance, therefore, after the disappointment of the fugitive Miss Eggerton, Mr. Cram had a wish in his mind, - his son could be introduced to the favour of Miss Clann, and therefore listened to the arguments of appearance, in the hope the young lady might be dazzled by fortune ; he had mentioned this to Mr. Summerfield, and he, to forward his own designs, joined Mr. Cram, by thinking it an advantageous union ; he therefore affected to be fond of the company of young Mr. Cram, went with him frequently to the lodge, but Nat, not knowing the designs of his father, or the still deeper scheme

scheme of the curate, credulously joined in all, unknowing and unsuspecting.

However nought availed, Mr. Cram must be high sheriff, and high sheriff Mr. Cram was; Mrs. Cram had (as she intended to have) a pair of horses added to the coach; the liveries were changed from green trimmings to blue, with silver shoulder knots, (or epauletts) the horses were new bitted, new harnessed, the manes platted with blue ribbon, and temple roses of the same colour, all under Mrs. Cram's immediate inspection, who valued herself on her taste, looking with contempt on those who had no spirit; nay, she went farther, for in her zeal

for the honour of her husband, and the good of her country (which she declared was her first wish and inducement for Mr. Cram to undertake so fatiguing and expensive an office) incautiously Mrs. Cram hoped an address, or a petition, would be carried to the throne and Mr. Cram be knighted; this suggestion had like to have destroyed all they had planned, for the idea in his humble mind was so preposterous, that fearing he might be liable to the offer, was almost ready to pay the fine and escape both: she mollified his fears however, with an assurance, she had no such wishes, and all went on quiet again, or at least if not quiet, in the track forwarding the

light of Mrs. Cram's ambition, next to that of seeing her niece, the wife, of him who was to succeed to all the honours as well as fortune of her husband.

Mrs. Cram had been so diligent in all the manœuvres necessary, that when the assizes drew near, nothing was wanting; Nat had prevailed on his father to buy him a second-hand Phæton and a pair of horses. Mr. Summerfield, at his request, was chosen chaplain to the sheriff, and preached the assize sermon; he went in the coach with the sheriff, his lady, and Miss Vulture, the young 'Squire in his phæton alone; few would have
trusted

trusted themselves with him ; sailors are unskilful charioteers, many proofs of his want of judgment in guiding the reins appeared ; however, they arrived in safety at the county town, in all the parade of show and consequence ; Sir Theo. Clann was obliged to be there, he was subpoenaed on a cause respecting a right of inclosure, and of the payment of the great tythes on the occasion. Farmer Hedge had a long lease of a large tract of waste ground, which by a covenant in the said lease was not to be inclosed or cultivated, but lay in common for pasturage, in the face of this clause he incloses the said grounds, sows turnips, plants orchards, pease, beans, and all vegetables, meaning to
take

take in a large flock of sheep, of near four thousand, with their lambs, to winter on this ground. Farmer Ling brought an action against Hedge, that whereas the right of keeping sheep within that district was confined solely to him alone, as his lease would shew, and that he payed a stipen'd to his landlord for the grant; Hedge, in justification of his conduct, alledges that these four thousand sheep he meant to feed and winter, were belonging to an estate, newly inclosed, and a part of the same waste ground, and long since Ling had his lease, but that Hedge had purchased the ground, and had a right to do with his own as he pleased. The judge was undetermin-
ed

as in his opinion, it was referred for
 the opinion of the twelve: Ling was
 supported by Squire Anvil; Sir The-
 oplatus espoused the cause of Hedge,
 in proving his property to be just.
 The hall was exceedingly crowded,
 Lady Betty and her daughters were
 there, and came in with Mrs. Cram,
 and the chaplain, Miss Vulture, and
 the sheriff's son; young Cram in seeing
 them so crowded, called out 'ladies
 take care of your pockets,' declaring
 'they wanted sea room,' however,
 they got seated by the side of the
 judges; young Cram sat behind the
 council; in the course of their pleading,
 the council in behalf of Mr. Hedge,
 observing the increase of the flock
 were

were so great as to render it impossible for Mr. Ling to pasture them all, was answered by the council on the other side, as no plea for breach of covenant; the judge said that the motive of Mr. Hedge might nevertheless be a salutary one, and beneficial to the community at large, and—here young Mr. Cram, who was strenuously in favour of Farmer Hedge, eagerly called out ‘he would bet his honor a guinea it was,’ this caused a laugh in court, and his lordship could scarcely keep the natural gravity of his countenance, a gentleman, too, who stood by him, noticing the ladies, asked him particularly if he knew that lady (pointing to Miss Vulture) who was only conspicuous

ous by her drefs; who do you mean, faid Nat, that in the blue bonnet with orange ribbons? being answered yes, O that there is my coufin Urfula, thefe incautious fallies of the high fheriff's fon, though it did not make his own obfervation good, that he was not deficient either in manners, or a knowledge of the world, yet it answered the purpofe, his good mother-in-law had infilled into his mind that he would be known; a whifper foon circulated 'who is he,' it is the fheriff's fon, while Mifs Vulture beheld with contempt her deftin'd partner for life: were not all other thoughts (as before obferved) funk in the poffeffion and governing his large fortune. Mr. Cram
for

for a citizen, carried himself through his office very well, as he entirely depended on Sir Theophilus, to whom he always applied, if he found himself embarrassed, happy, supremely happy was he, when he returned to Iddlestone, and could enjoy his newspaper, and partake of all these honors in imagination, which he never wanted to see realized, for Mr. Cram was a patriot in theory only.

From these scenes of frivolous vanity and ridiculous parade, let us turn our eyes to Chepstow, where dwells the lovely deserted, and at this minute, the expecting and agitated wife. Near nine months had passed since

Captain

Captain Clann left England; a ship now arrived which brought letters to Sir Theophilus and Lady Betty, with the agreeable news of his safe arrival at Madras, in continued good health; there were letters likewise to his brothers, and the young ladies his sisters; Mrs. Wallace too had one, but it was a cover to a tender superscription, addressed to the fair object of all his love and affection; this was immediately forwarded to Chepstow: long expected, every hour made the messenger appear tardy in his approach to her, she thought each moment an age, till the tender billet arrived; ten times did she press to her lips the letter, equally as often did she kiss the address before her

her heart could venture to read the effusions of love, though wrote in a hand, known, honoured and beloved, we will not attempt to traverse the contents with the attentive eyes of her, whose whole soul read a page in every word; vows of fidelity, eternal love, met the impression of a tender, of a sympathizing heart, and the benevolence of unwitnessed tears, gave the ease, which only could be administered cordially, in a total solitude. Mrs. Clann was allowed this indulgence of exquisite joy alone, but the effects were not possible for her to conceal. The irritation effected her internal emotions, and a few hours saw her a mother, with a cherubim of a boy by her

her side; happy in the acquisition she beheld him, with maternal tenderness, fondly did she clasp the infant, (to whom she gave existence) to a bosom which would be open, only to his absent father and himself.

These happy presages of returning happiness, alleviated the dull hours of a month's confinement, each day increased the hopes she entertained of the growing health of her son, fondly did she trace every feature of his father, the author of his existence, while laying in her lap, his eyes conveyed to her imagination the expressive wishes of him who was so far distant, the returning and the closing day, increased
these

these flattering promises, while hope, delusive and deluding, led her to that period, when all her anxieties would cease on the return of her husband, and his unknown parent.

Three months had passed in the pleasing occupation of a nurse, and a mother, the hours had glided swift away, in this maternal task, though the husband was never absent from her thoughts, the son soothed the otherwise regretting moments for his absence, Mrs. Clann was reading a newspaper, when an extract from a letter dated Madras, caught her attention, it was enough, no sooner read, than the paper fell from her hands, she
gave

gave a loud shriek, and fell senseless into a chair; Mrs. Bristow, (who was in the adjoining apartment) and the principal nurse, being alarmed at the call, hastened into the room, fearing the child was ill, where she found Mrs. Clann apparently dead; assistance was immediately obtained and a person of eminence being fetched, he restored her to her recollection, only to feel, and then to bury again in senseless agony her irreparable misfortunes, for several days and nights a few intervals only served to shew she was alive. Mrs. Bristow wrote to her sister (Mrs. Wallace) the situation of her lady, but nature will not yield to
grief,

grief, and Mrs. Clann returned to life, to know and feel her misery.

When her senses returned her lamentations served to tell Mrs. Bristow the cause of all her sufferings, which till then she was ignorant of; ‘ My dearest and best of men, shall I never see you more;’ then clasping her precious charge to her breast, she would exclaim, you have no father now, no succour to support a deserted orphan and a beggared mother. Mrs. Bristow, who had before entertained the idea, Mrs. Clann was no wife, and that Mr. Compton, or at least the gentleman she had seen at her feet, (for she did not at this period know

his name) naturally concluding he had forsaken her, or was married to some other lady, began to administer the balm of consolation, peculiar to such cases, expatiating on the vanity of men, how fickle and changeable they were, and then threw out a distant hint, as suspecting her breach of chastity. Mrs. Clann, from the clamour of her grief, was speechless at the suggestion, which Mrs. Bristow construing as a tacit confession, continued her observations by saying, she never liked such passionate men; I thought, ma'am, when he kneeled at your feet he meant only to deceive you as he had done before; they have no good in their heart when they kiss your hands,
and

and vow, and swear, as he did; I thought then as how he never intended to see you more. Peace, said Mrs. Clann, in an agony of grief not to be described, is it not enough that he is dead, but I must have my character branded with infamy; stop your unhallowed license to profane, nor fully unspotted innocence, or unimpeached honour and integrity. Humbled by the sternness of Mrs. Clann's reply, she became submissive, begged pardon; 'If indeed the poor gentleman was dead, she was very sorry,' this brought the fatal certainty again in all its horrors to her mind, wretched, wretched woman as I am, said Mrs. Clann, where shall I hide myself, who have

no husband, nor my child a father. Mrs. Bristow remained silent, but still in her own mind convinced she was right in her notions, and indeed she could not gather from Mrs. Clann's words any, but rather a confirmation of her first suspicions.

Mrs. Bristow's letter to her sister was answered immediately by Mrs. Wallace, expressive of her concern for the health and life of Miss Eggerton, (for though Mrs. Bristow was told by her sister, Miss Eggerton was married, yet, for particular reasons, chose to retain her own name, they not choosing to confide the secret to more than already knew it) Mrs. Wallace judging from what cause her violent disorder proceeded,

proceeded, expressed the great grief the family were in for the death of Captain Clann in the East Indies, who was killed in battle, when a victory was obtained by the English troops; his cloaths were found in the field after the action, but what, or for what cause they had disposed of the body, none could conjecture; the cloaths of several others were found too. After relating an event which she knew would confirm to her lady, the greatest misfortune she could possibly know, informs her, through the same channel, Mrs. Bristow's letter, that, previous to this melancholy event, they had received intelligence of the death of Mr. Grey, Lady Betty's brother-in-law, who had died immensely rich, leaving

leaving twenty thousand pounds to each of Lady Betty's children, when they attained the age of twenty-one, or the day of marriage, without any restriction whatever: a handsome legacy to Lady Betty and Sir Theophilus, and the remainder, which was considerable, to his nephew Philip Grey, his elder brother's son, and made him executor and residuary legatee; five thousand pounds were added in addition to Miss Clann, as she was his god-daughter, and bore his name: these united revolutions, the unfortunate death of a brother, and the accumulated fortune brought the students again to Iddlestone Lodge, from Oxford, and the Temple. The 'Squire had supported the greatest loss he could sustain

sustain in the defection of Miss Egger-
 ton; ignorant how severely the death
 of his brother wounded her peace; the
 Counsellor, indolent by nature, and
 not litigious, enjoyed the idea of com-
 fort in an independence, which almost
 reconciled him to an event, so prema-
 ture and unexpected; he endeavoured
 to administer consolation to Lady
 Betty, who was inconsolable for the
 death of her son. Bion was com-
 missioned as a midshipman, and gone
 in the Active man of war, to the wes-
 tern islands; the Counsellor, in his
 mind, totally renounced all law pro-
 ceedings, and having never aspired
 himself to the high honour of 'Keeper
 of the great seal;' determined to live
 as his own inclination led him, on his
 uncle's

uncle's bounty, and the future division of his father's fortune; a few weeks had cooled the impatience of grief, (every where but at Chepstow, there incessant lamentations followed each rising and setting sun) the lawyer began to look towards the legacy of his deceased brother, if Mr. Grey died before him, it would come in a division to his father first, and then to them; but if his brother died before the uncle, it became a lapsed legacy, and would sink in the residuum to Mr. Grey; it was a suggestion worthy consideration, and methods were put to use, to find the proper dates of the death of each respectively.



